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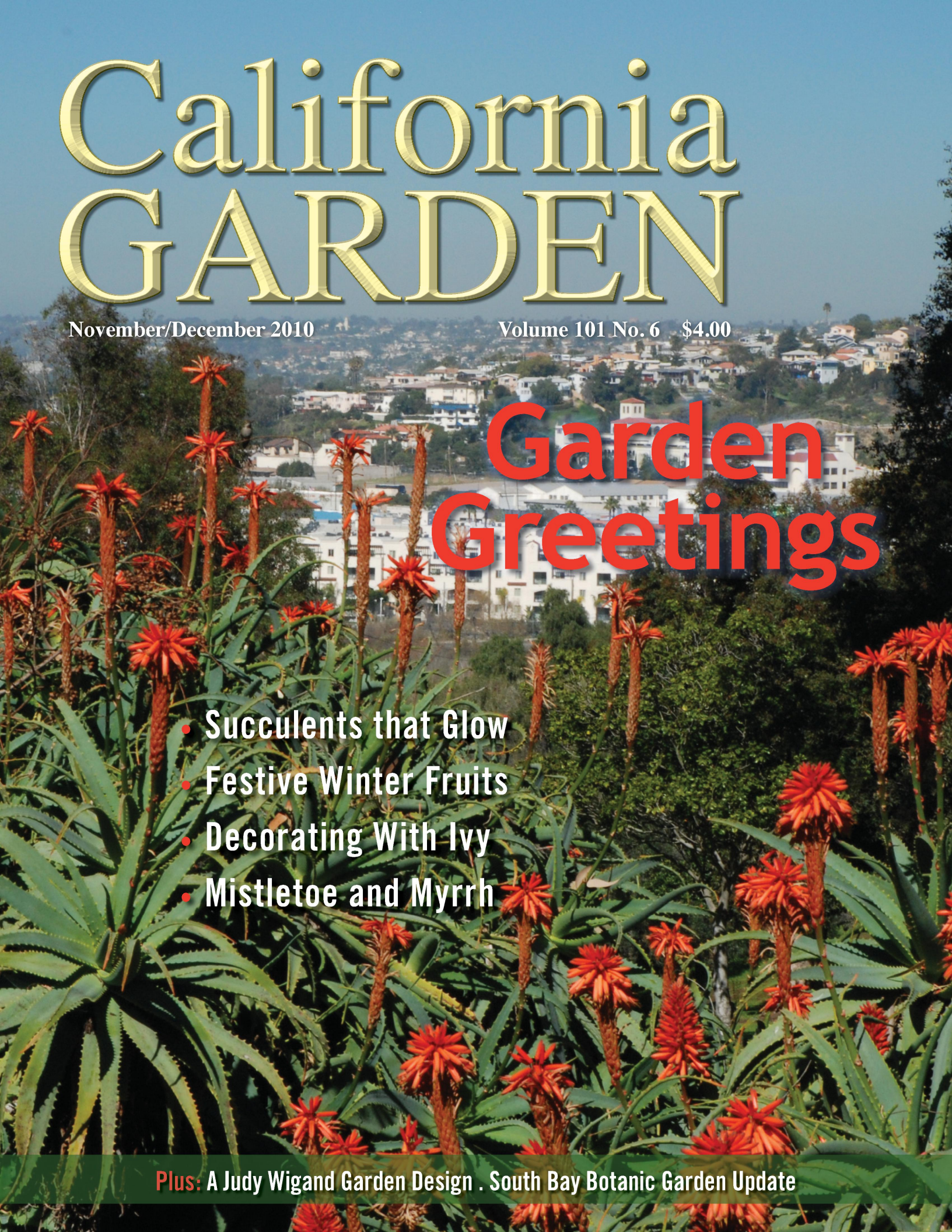

Garden Greetings

- Succulents that Glow
- Festive Winter Fruits
- Decorating With Ivy
- Mistletoe and Myrrh

Plus: A Judy Wigand Garden Design . South Bay Botanic Garden Update

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5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
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Santa, Live Music, Hot Mulled Wine
ADMISSION:
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There will be additional fees
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Festive aloes in bloom welcome the holidays in San Diego gardens. For more succulents with seasonal colors, see page 24. Photo by Meredith French

We welcome articles, photographs, drawings and ideas. Deadlines are the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November. We do not pay for articles or artwork. We cannot guarantee the safe return of materials. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. We ask that submissions be email attachments in Microsoft Word documents, or sent to us on a CD. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

November/December 2010, Volume 101, Number 6

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairperson, please contact *California Garden* if you'd like the magazine sold at your show.

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President's Letter

Are you reading *California Garden* for the first time, or are you a confirmed fan of our century-old magazine?

I like to think that if you are picking up the magazine for the first time, you are looking for ways to add to the quality of your daily life through the cultivation of your interest in "all things nature." When you do, you know the day goes better and the month flies by full of creative flow. Your efforts will more than likely result in surprising rewards because you have been "cultivating delight."

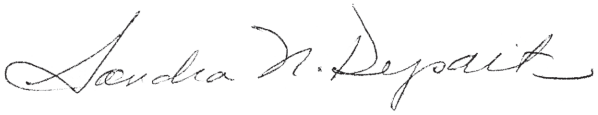
Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden is the title of a gardening memoir by Diane Ackerman that never ceases to reward me with comfort and reassurance. The book is a reminder that an investment in one's garden is worthy of celebration because of the many sensory pleasures it brings whether we are deadheading flowers, providing sugar water for hummingbirds or studying a garden spider. Ackerman's sensuous, lyrical prose can only have resulted from many hours spent as a muse in nature, cultivating delight.

These rewards can be yours as well, if you take the time to include *California Garden* in your daily life. The magazine is here to help you enjoy your garden while adding to your knowledge. Our writers and editors share your passion for the garden and have honed their expertise in their own San Diego gardens, "cultivating delight."

We also invite your participation in San Diego Floral Association activities as the year ends. Special events like a celebration of SDFA founder Kate Sessions birthday (see Page 3) and December Nights (see Page 4) are all part of our organization's outreach to others who share a similar need to cultivate delight. Throughout our history, floral leaders and members did just that to the benefit of us all. I have no doubt that we need this now more than ever.

Sharing San Diego Floral,

Sandra Dysart



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California GARDEN

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

FALL CLASSES

CREATE FALL ARRANGEMENTS WHILE HONING BASIC DESIGN SKILLS

NOVEMBER 11
Review Basics of Floral Arranging: Class 1

This class will emphasize the basics of floral arranging while students create a fall design. Please bring flower clippers or a knife, containers and plant material to the class.

NOVEMBER 18
Review Basics of Floral Arranging: Class 2

Using techniques learned in the first class, students will make a fall/ Thanksgiving table arrangement. Please bring flower clippers or a knife, containers and plant material to class.

Instructor: Kathy Taylor de Murillo
Kathy Taylor de Murillo is a native of southern California who has lived in San Diego for 25 years. She joined Bonita Valley Garden Club in 1991 and began studying floral design to enter flower shows. She has continued through the years to study and teach floral design classes. She has been an active member of the San Diego Floral Association Flower Arranger's Guild for many years and participates in Art Alive at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Cost: Single class is $12 ($10 for SDFA members).
Cost for both classes is $16 ($14 SDFA members)

All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers.

To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes are limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

Call the Floral Association office weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 619-232-5762 for more information about SDFA workshops.

It's time to wish Kate Happy Birthday

Kate Sessions, the legendary nursery owner and horticulturist, was born Nov. 8, 1857. To mark the 153rd anniversary of her birth, join SDFA in a celebration at the Marston House.

The party is Saturday, Nov. 6, starting at 11:00 a.m. To honor the "Mother of Balboa Park," there will be birthday cake and lemonade, in addition to snacks from gourmet food trucks. Plus a geranium named for Sessions will be for sale and there will be tours of the historic Marston House and gardens at 3525 Seventh Ave. Walking tours highlighting the trees of Balboa Park also are planned.

Sessions was an active member of the Floral Association and a prolific contributor to *California Garden*. She died in 1940 at age 82. In 1998, a statue of her was dedicated on the west side of Balboa Park.

The festivities are sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association, Friends of Balboa Park, and Save Our Heritage Organisation.

Details are at www.sdfloral.org - *Nancy Carol Carter*

Bus Tour to the New Year's Rose Parade Float Display in Pasadena.
January 2, 2011
Tickets $45.
Phone SDFA Office for Details
619-232-5762

E-MAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

Presently the SDFA is distributing its newsletter through the US mail. This distribution has become very costly to our organization.

Please help to reduce the cost of newsletter distribution by sending us your e-mail address so that you can receive the newsletter via email.

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Dig in!

News, tips, advice and products you can use

"Anything Goes" at December Nights 2010

Join Us for the Floral Association's Annual Gift to San Diego

Balboa Park will be full of holiday cheer on December Nights—the first weekend of the month, Dec. 3 and 4 (Friday and Saturday). As it has for 38 years, San Diego Floral will once again delight visitors by filling Casa del Prado Room 101 with decorated Christmas trees and unique floral designs. This year, creative minds are set free with the decorating theme of "Anything Goes." As always, our tasty gingerbread cookies and exotic protea blooms will be on sale.

This SDFA tradition began in 1972 when our office moved from the Floral Building to Casa del Prado. We presented our first holiday flower show then, and continued this effort until 1979 and the advent of Christmas on the Prado, the precursor to December Nights. Floral's event became part of a park-wide celebration that included free admission and special displays at all the museums on the Prado. In addition to the floral designs, our members created a variety of holiday crafts and made hundreds of chocolate chip cookies to sell. The group later discovered a delicious gingerbread cookie recipe that quickly became a customer favorite, bringing cookie buyers back year after year. Beautiful cut protea flowers were eventually incorporated into the sale, giving us the opportunity to educate the public about these unusual flowers.

The Village Garden Club of La Jolla assisted Floral members with the floral designs until 1990 when we borrowed the National Arboretum concept of filling the room with decorated trees. Garden clubs and plant societies were invited to decorate a live tree for the display (originally at a cost of just $9 for a tree). Many of the groups responded and their efforts were well received by the public. The Floral Arrangers Guild continued the custom of placing floral designs in the display. A member tea was held prior to the opening of the show. The tea has been discontinued, but the show goes on, delighting thousands of visitors each year.

Photos: Kay Harry

For a few years, holiday vignettes graced the room. Each included a tree, a table and a mantel with a decorative theme, such as "Favorite Children's Stories." Other themes included "Our County Communities," "Balboa Park" and, at the centennial of the Floral Association in 2007, "A Celebration of the Decades."

Two years ago, we returned to the tree-filled room, first with an "All Nature" theme in 2008 and "Honoring our States" in 2009.

As "Anything Goes" this year, we look forward to a diverse and inventive display from the garden clubs, plant society affiliates, Floral Guild designers and others whose participation is vital to the success of this event. Special thanks for the participation of Mission Hills Nursery over the years, and to Walter Andersen Nursery, provider of many trees and a grand display at the entrance to Room 101 for each of the past 10 years. – *Kay Harry*

GINGERBREAD COOKIES

A DECEMBER NIGHTS FAVORITE from San Diego Floral Association
Cookies sold at Room 101 and, for the first time, by the box when pre-ordered.
Box of 288 cookies (packaged in trays of two dozen) $50

Details and order form at www.sdfloral.org (no telephone orders).

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Trees of Balboa Park: Cork Oak

Cork Oaks grow to a height of 35-40 feet with a spreading asymmetrical canopy to 40 feet. Leaves are leathery in texture, dark green, lanceolate and 3 inches long with toothed margins. The leaf color is shiny dark green on top with a white-gray pubescence (downy hairs) on the underside.

The typical oak flowers (catkins) appear in April or May followed by the development of 1/2-1-inch long acorns. In their native forests, Cork Oaks can reach heights of 65 feet, live up to 300 years and usually grow under the same conditions as Holly Oaks and Olive Trees.

This tree is the cork of commerce and is rarely harvested before its fortieth year. Portugal grows about 60 percent of all the Cork Oak Trees used for this purpose. The tree bark is shaved off to make cork once every ten to fifteen years, and one tree can be harvested about fifteen times in its lifetime.

In Balboa Park, Cork Oaks can be found growing near the Campfire Camp, in the lawn near Sixth Avenue and Upas Street and in the Kate Sessions Balboa Park Nursery. Kate Sessions is credited for introducing this species to the Southern California landscape.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Pulplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications*

Favorite Tool: Ornamental Tools

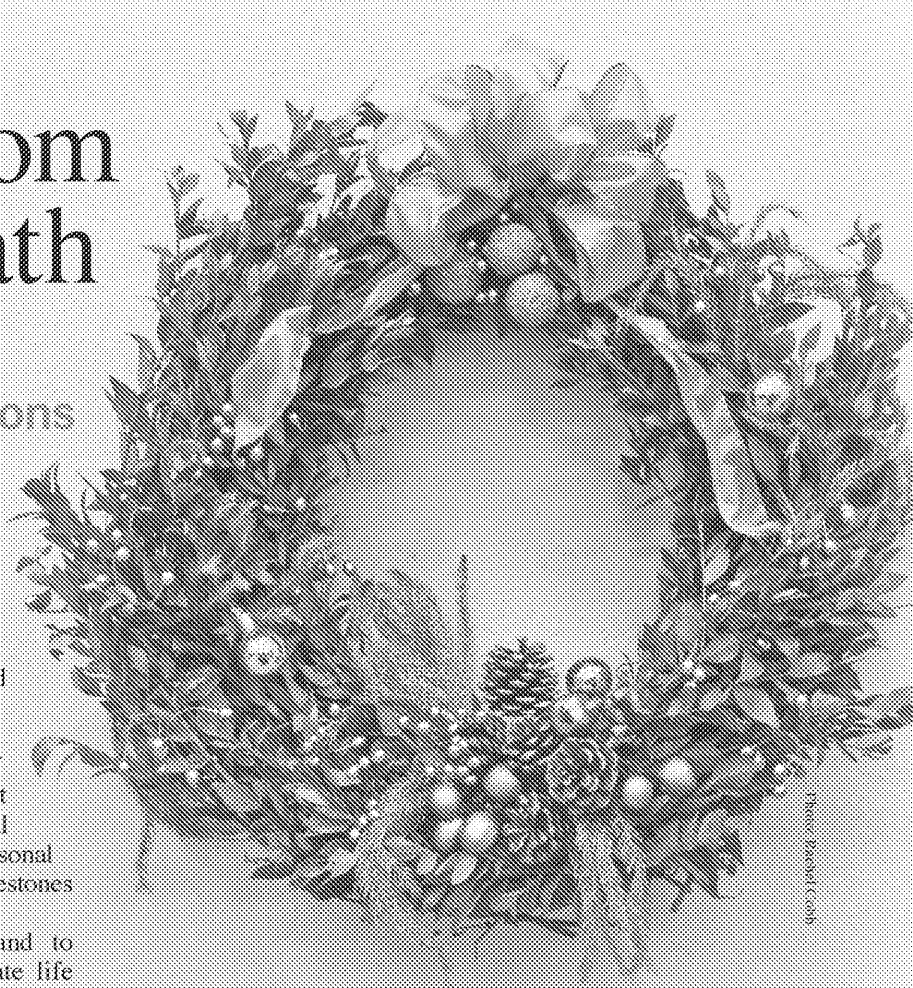
For backyard gardeners and small-plot farmers, these four garden tools will be in constant use. The clippers are expensive but worth every penny. The dinner fork is free.

- **Felco clippers #6:** Use for clipping and deadheading. For small hands, these are more compact and comfortable than the larger Felco #2 clippers. The #6 tool is a by-pass clipper, which can be sharpened to cut clean cuts. All parts can be repaired or replaced. Suggested retail price is $59. Look for them at specialty nurseries or shop online at Amazon.com.
- **Short-handled hand rake:** These short, slim rakes allow you to kneel down and work in tight planting areas without damaging plants and roots. I prefer one that is about 20 inches long with 7 to 9 narrow tines. An invaluable substitute for your hands to reach between and under rose bushes and other shrubs. Black & Decker's Fan Rake is about $8. Look for it at home improvement stores. Similar rakes are available from www.shovelandhoe.com.
- **D-handled spade:** This shovel, sometimes called a tile or drain spade, has a long, narrow blade and a fiberglass handle in a D-shape for easy gripping. It is a convenient size with many uses, including: digging in a crowded bed, digging up old plants and small trees, digging planting holes and opening a sliver of soil for seed and seedling planting. Look for this shovel at home improvement stores.
- **Dinner fork:** Use to remove small weeds and grasses. Nothing works better in flower beds, especially after a rain when the soil is soft, than a common dinner fork. Choose an old fork you won't mind losing in the garden. The tines of the fork can be inserted under the weed to loosen the soil and lift the weed cleanly from the soil. *– Carvill Veech*

Create a Custom Holiday Wreath

Personal Touches Turn These Traditional Decorations into Keepsakes

By Barbara P. Clark



"Wreath making is one of the most ancient of crafts and one that is inextricably entwined with Man's desire to recreate nature's own circles." This quote is from *Enchanting Circles* (Barrett & Moore, Southwater, 2003), a book devoted to the art of wreath making. In it, author Fiona Barrett explains that ancient cultures used wreath-like decorations as floral headdresses, crowns and halos to celebrate important personal events like births and weddings as well as community milestones and holidays.

Today, wreaths are mostly used at Christmas and to commemorate changing seasons, rather than to celebrate life events. But after reading *Enchanting Circles*, I made a keepsake wedding wreath for our anniversary celebration.

Making a personalized wreath is not time consuming, expensive or difficult. First choose a theme, and then collect bits and pieces to decorate the wreath. Your theme can be almost anything, such as vacations, hobbies, collections, personal passions or an important life event like a retirement or birth. Framed photographs and natural objects work well to decorate a wreath.

From November through the New Year, arts and crafts stores and home décor stores have examples of decorated wreaths. You may find a pre-made wreath that appeals to you, one that you can customize by adding personal ornaments and sentimental items.

If you decide to start from scratch, then you have the choice of making a wreath frame or buying one. For your first effort, I suggest starting with a pre-made wreath frame. Grape vine wreath bases are easy to work with, come in many sizes, and are easy to find at arts and crafts stores. Start with a 12-inch to 18-inch size. It provides enough working surface, but it won't be overwhelming or too heavy to handle.

Decorate the wreath while is it hanging because this allows you to see how it will look on a wall. Find a stout, cupboard doorknob to hang your wreath on while you work. Grape vine wreaths are usually round, but they are not always even on all sides. Hold the wreath up and turn it around to determine the best top and bottom. Then, attach a hanging wire to the top of the wreath and hook it on the knob.

Gather materials before you begin. To duplicate the holiday wreath pictured you will need wire, a 12 or 18-inch grape vine wreath, a big bunch of greenery (fresh or artificial), 12 gold balls of various sizes, a bunch of gold berries, several yards of gold ribbon (the ribbon pictured is 1 ½ inches wide with a wired and gold-glittered edge), six stems of gold leaves and a few gold-painted pine-cones of various sizes.

After securing a hanging wire to the wreath frame, begin attaching the greenery. Start at the bottom of one side and work towards the top center of the wreath. Then, attach greenery to the other side starting from the center bottom towards the top. Applying your greenery from different directions helps you achieve even coverage.

Attach each piece of greenery with the stem down and the small, finer leaves at the top. As you work up each side, be sure to place the ends of stems behind the finer, smaller leaves. I used fresh huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*). You could use pine, juniper, holly or any fresh greenery that lasts for several weeks.

You can attach the greenery in several ways. One method is to push the stems into the wreath base and hide them in the grape vine. For a more secure attachment, use a glue gun or wire to attach each piece of greenery to the wreath frame. Most of my greenery is simply stuck into the base. A few pieces were heavy and needed extra security, so I attached them to short floral picks and then stuck the picks into the base.

Next, I wired the pine cones to the bottom of the wreath as pictured. Then, I randomly wired gold balls, berries and leaves throughout the greenery. Finally, I made a bow with long streamers and attached it to the top of the wreath. To further personalize this wreath, I plan to add a picture each year of friends and family who gather in our home to celebrate Christmas.

To the basic wreath described above, you can add other items or substitute whatever appeals to you. For instance, you could swap red ornaments for the gold. You may decide to try something different, like randomly placing small wrapped boxes filled with candy or small favors on the wreath. These would be fun to pull off and give as gifts to guests. Use your imagination, and turn your wreath into something that shows your personality—a wreath that only you could make.

–Barbara P. Clark is a gardener, artist and floral designer.

Growing Grounds

California's citrus growers defeat a dangerous pest with the first biological control program

By John Blocker

They say the bugs, the dreadful bugs
Have other bugs to bite 'em;
And t'other bugs have smaller bugs
And so ad infinitum.

-Toast given by Hon. L. W. Buck of Vacaville at the grand banquet for the Eleventh Fruit Growers Convention of the State of California held in National City in 1889

In 1889 in National City, Flora Kimball welcomed the delegates to the Eleventh Fruit Growers Convention of the State of California. In her opening address she greeted the delegates "...not as horticulturalists alone, but as apostles of fruit, trees and flowers." Her husband, Frank Kimball, was vice-president of the convention and a director-at-large to the State Board of Horticulture under whose auspices the convention was held. He acted as master of ceremonies for the grand banquet attended by more than 800 people at the closing of the convention. He also had a part interest in the company that was selling parcels of land in Chula Vista to persons interested in planting citrus groves.

Cottony cushion scale (*Icerya purchasi*) was at that time devastating citrus groves and ornamental plantings throughout California. President of the convention Ellwood Cooper of Santa Barbara warned the delegates in his opening address, "Much alarm was manifested on account of the ravages of the *Icerya purchasi* and information is wanted on how to best arrest the spread of this dangerous insect."

How these early citrus farmers confronted and defeated this pest would be a first for the industry and earn one of the main researchers the title of the "Father of Biological Control."

From Down Under

In 1887, at an earlier Fruit Growers Convention in Riverside, representatives of the fledgling citrus industry in California met with the Chief of the Division of Entomology for the United States Department of Agriculture, Charles Valentine Riley. They discussed the control of cottony cushion scale. California growers wanted the Federal government to send someone to the citrus groves near Adelaide, Australia, to search for the scale's parasites and predators. They believed cottony cushion scale had arrived in Menlo Park on a shipment in 1868 of acacia from Australia.

In his speech to the Riverside convention, Riley agreed the scale was most likely native to either Australia or New Zealand. He stated he would not hesitate to send one of his field agents to Australia but, "...the mere suggestion that I wanted $1,500 to $2,000 for such a purpose would be more apt to cause laughter and ridicule on the part of the average committee in Congress than serious and earnest consideration." Riley, working with the French government, had initiated a very successful control program for the grape phylloxera, an aphid-like insect that had been decimating French vineyards. Congress had specifically passed a law prohibiting him from taking more trips abroad.

Nevertheless, the growers at the 1887 conference in Riverside passed a resolution to petition their congressmen to persuade the federal government to send an entomologist to Australia. Norman J. Colman, U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture and Riley's superior, sent a letter to Representative Felton from San Francisco's Eighth District. He pointed out that although travel outside the United States was prohibited, the United States Government would be participating in an International Exposition in Melbourne next year. He wrote, "This exposition in many ways would further the investigation referred to in your memorial."

Frank McCoppin, former mayor of the city of San Francisco, was soon appointed to head the Melbourne Exposition Commission. He immediately set aside $2,000 to pay the expenses of an entomologist to go with the U.S. delegation.

Riley had two field agents in California, Albert Koebele, a naturalized German immigrant stationed in Alameda, and Daniel Coquillet, who was in Los Angeles working on chemical controls for cottony cushion scale. Riley sent Koebele to Australia. In October 1888, Koebele reported from Australia that he had found large numbers of a cottony cushion scale parasite, *Cryptochaetum iceryae*. He sent about 12,000 specimens back to California to be released. Everyone involved with the project expected this member of the fly family would provide the best option for controlling the scale.

A Voracious Lady Bug

On October 15, 1888 in North Adelaide, Koebele found the vedalia beetle, a ladybug, feeding on cottony cushion scale. In 1889 in his National City address to the Fruit Growers Convention, Coquillet gave this report of Koebele's observations: "...in certain places where he found these ladybugs, the orange growers did not fear the *Icerya;* they paid no attention to them. I judge from that the orange growers think it is not necessary, because the ladybugs and other insects that prey on them keep them within due limits." Koebele, however, sent only 129 specimens to Coquillet in Los Angeles. Twenty-eight beetles arrived on November 30, 1888; 44 on December 29; and 57 on January 24, 1889.

By April 16, 1889 when he spoke to the convention in National City, Coquillet believed the vedalia beetle was going to be the best bet for controlling the scale. He said he had established colonies in the open air at Colonel J. R. Dobbin's ranch and Mr. A. Scott Chapman's ranch, both in the San Gabriel Valley.

Coquillet reported he placed the small red and black lady beetles under a tent over an infested orange on the J. W. Wolfskill Ranch in Los Angeles. The larvae of the ladybug destroyed at least a half dozen cottony cushion scale per day. The winged adult also fed on the scale. He estimated each vedalia beetle, larvae and adult, might destroy 250 scale insects.

He described the vedalia beetle to be "voracious" and he felt "…the successful introduction of this insect seems insured beyond a doubt." When he placed that tent over an infested orange tree to breed the vedalia beetle, Coquillet created the first insectary in California.

By July 2, 1889, Colonel Dobbins announced, "The vedalia beetle had multiplied its numbers and spread so rapidly that every one of my 3,300 orchard trees is literally swarming with them. … People are coming here daily, and by placing infested branches upon the ground beneath my trees for two hours, can secure colonies of thousands of vedalia beetles which are there in countless numbers seeking food. Over 50,000 have been taken away to other orchards during the past week, and there are millions still remaining. … I feel positive from my own experience that the entire valley will be practically free from *Icerya* before the advent of the new year."

Chapman had been ready to abandon his orchard in the San Gabriel Valley to the cottony cushion scale. On October 18, 1889, he was able to report the vedalia beetle had eradicated the scale from 150 acres of his land.

Quickly, the vedalia beetle spread throughout the state, suppressing the scale. The cost of bringing the parasite to California was about $1,500 and the savings to growers has been undoubtedly in the millions. Orange shipments exported from Los Angeles County in 1889 jumped from 700 carloads the previous year to 2000 carloads.

L. E. Caltagirone and R. L. Droutt wrote in the *Annual Review of Entomology* in 1989, "…no single achievement has more thoroughly, soundly, and significantly established a major pest control tactic than the vedalia project. All subsequent projects, programs, advances, and refinement in theory and practice of biological control have sprung from this single event." Charles Valentine Riley is credited with being the originator of this tactic and is known today as the "Father of Biological Control."

–John Blocker worked with the agricultural industry in San Diego for 31 years

Next: Chula Vista: Lemon capital of the world

Other Sources:

"History of the Vedalia Beetle," L. E. Caltagirone and R. L. Droutt; Proceedings of the Fruit Growers and Farmers Convention, Issue 9 and 11

Charles Valentine Riley
Father of Biological Control

Charles Valentine Riley, born in Chelsea, England, on September 19, 1843, moved to a farm in Illinois when he was 17. From there, he wrote for the *Prairie Farmer* about his observations of insects that were damaging crops. At 21, he began working as a reporter, editor and illustrator for an entomological journal in Chicago.

His writings attracted the attention of Benjamin Walsh, Illinois state entomologist. In 1868, Walsh used his influence to secure Riley's appointment to the newly created position of state entomologist for Missouri. During the 11years Riley held this position, he wrote nine annual reports on the entomological conditions of the State. The reports averaged 164 pages and described in detail the insects damaging crops, their life cycles and their predators and parasites. The reports, authorities agree, constitute the foundation for the study of modern entomology. He was decorated by the French government for his work to control grapevine phylloxera.

In 1878, Riley was appointed chief of the Entomological Service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 1885, he donated his entire 115,000 specimen insect collection to the U.S. National Museum, now the Smithsonian. Riley became the Museum's first curator of insects. During his career, he published more than 2,400 articles. He left the USDA in June 1894.

Riley died on September 14, 1895 at age 52. As he rode downhill on a bicycle near his home in Washington D. C., he hit a paving block that had dropped onto the road. He flew off the bike and fractured his skull. He never regained consciousness, and died at home the same day. He left a wife and six children. - *John Blocker*

In Memoriam: Bill Teague

San Diego's horticultural community will gather on Nov. 14 to celebrate the life of Bill Teague, horticulturist at the San Diego Botanic Garden and a long-time officer of the San Diego Horticultural Society. A resident of Del Mar since 1978, Teague succumbed to ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) on Sept. 29. He was 66.

The celebration will be held at SDBG from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Gazebo Lawn. Garden admission is free to those attending the event.

In lieu of flowers, the Teague family suggests donations to San Diego Botanic Garden, Bill Teague Garden Fund, P.O. Box 230005, Encinitas, CA 92023; Friends of Powerhouse Park, P.O. Box 297, Del Mar, CA 92014; or the ALS Association (www.alsa.org).

Born in Palo Alto and a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona in ornamental horticulture, Teague had a 33-year-long career as a protea and eucalyptus grower in North County. When he retired about a decade ago, he began working for SDBG, designing private gardens and generously donating his time for public landscaping projects, including the Del Mar Post Office gardens and the median across from the Del Mar Fairgrounds, to name a few. For the last several years, he designed numerous award-winning display gardens for both the San Diego Horticultural Society and SDBG at the annual Del Mar Fair.

During his tenure as SDBG horticulturist, Teague contributed to the Seeds of Wonder Children's Garden, Undersea Succulent Garden and Hamilton Children's Garden, among others. He also helped form the American Bamboo Society there in the 1970s.

Since its founding in 1994, Teague has played a leading role in the San Diego Horticultural Society. He also was a founding member of the Del Mar Garden Club.

In spite of his advanced ALS, Teague continued to consult with others and offer his landscape advice. In fact, his last day was nothing if not fitting: he died on the way home from a trip to the San Diego Botanic Garden to show his daughter, Susan, one of his recent landscape creations.

In addition to Linda, Teague is survived by his sister Mari Lynn Teague of Corona; his son Christopher Teague and wife Marilyn of Irvine; his daughter Susan and husband Michael Bergevin of Tustin; and three grandchildren.

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Photo: Bob Wigand

Judy's Perennials

By Judy Wigand

A Garden Design:

Colorful Perennials Accent Succulents With Architecture

In this issue's garden design, I will describe the layout for a succulent garden, one offering strong architectural foliage and interesting color combinations. This design won't be comprised of succulents alone, but a healthy mix of equally drought-tolerant perennials, also indigenous to dryland environments. This combination creates the look of a lush garden, but one maintained with minimal irrigation.

Soil with excellent drainage is key to the survival of most succulents, so check to be certain your soil meets that requirement. Although succulents have the ability to store water in their leaves or stems, reserved for extended harsh conditions, they do accept occasional irrigation, often for the better of the plant. Other succulents cleverly sport woolly hairs or thick waxy leaves, slowing down moisture evaporation considerably.

For this garden design I've chosen succulents adaptable to growing alongside water thrifty perennials. It may be interesting to note that native succulents, such as agave, yucca and cactus, grow alongside a vast array of showy native perennials, shrubs and annuals. A trip to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, preferably during spring, serves as a grand example.

A Focal Point

To start, pick an area 16 feet wide by 12 feet deep that has a full sun exposure. The site can be on level ground or a gently sloping bank. A circular area would also work but the plan I'm suggesting would need to be altered considerably. Feel free to experiment.

For a strong focal point, start by placing a good-sized 5 gallon specimen of *Agave americana* 'Variegata', centered in the far back of the planting site. Although this agave is fairly slow growing, do reserve a 6 foot circle of ground for mature growth.

This is the perfect plant for an arid climate such as ours. Soft yellow margins line the outer edges of its sharply serrated leaves, making it a star performer in this garden plan, one all other companion plants will play off.

You could opt to use the smaller growing *Agave americana* 'Mediopicta', which has a broad creamy yellow band down the center of each leaf. I find these variegated forms of *Agave americana* add a good deal of drama to a garden scene. Although the solid steel-blue *A. americana* has a charm all its own, it is the largest of the lot and would one day outgrow this little garden area.

Agave americana 'Variegata'

Photo: Bob Wigand

Next place two 'Midnight' Mexican bush sages (*Salvia leucantha* 'Midnight') on each side of the yellow variegated agave. The dark purple flowering spikes of the sage will lap gracefully at the bold upward foliage of the agave and add softness. Each of the sages should have their own 5-foot wide space for growth, which they should fill in completely within a couple of years.

A Counterpoint

Whenever there is a bold foliage plant, such as the agave, there should be an opposite nearby, adding finer shaped foliage or flowers as a complement. Too many bold foliage plants together are like being in a room full of body-builders all trying to prove who's the strongest.

For the center section in this garden scheme, plant two *Calandrinia grandiflora*, sometimes known as *C. spectabilis*. This is one of the most exciting succulents for a waterwise garden due to its mounding growth habit, bluish gray foliage and long-stemmed open magenta flowers. Each plant reaches 2 feet tall and spreads to 4 feet wide; flowering stems rise another 18 inches.

Place these two plants a couple of feet apart, centered parallel in the foreground of the variegated agave. Planted side by side,

Photo: Bob Wigand

Midnight Mexican sage

two calandrinias will easily fill a 4 foot deep by 8 foot wide area in the center of the garden. As the calandrinia begins its bloom cycle from spring into summer, it will create a magical color feast with the agave and the 'Midnight' Mexican bush sage.

Adding to the color scheme, plant each outer edge of the calandrinias with the remarkable repeat blooming *Aloe* 'Rudikoppe' (or *Aloe* 'Rooikappie'), a highly sought after and treasured hybrid reaching only two feet in flower. The rich coral bloom stalks continue for most of the year, unlike most other aloes that bloom only a couple months from late winter to early spring.

This wonderful hybrid is credited to South African horticulturist Cynthia Giddy, owners of the renowned Umlaas Aloe Nursery. *Aloe* 'Rudikoppe' is quickly finding its way around horticultural circles throughout San Diego, but Daylily Hill Nursery in North Escondido boasts of a hefty supply, (www.daylilyhill.com).

Another slightly taller aloe hybrid you can opt for is *A.* 'Cynthia Giddy' sporting several candelabra-like bloom-stalks of peachy-coral flowers reaching 3 to 4 feet tall. Like *A.* 'Rudikoppe', this aloe flowers non-stop at least six months of the year.

Both *A.* 'Rudikoppe' and *A.* 'Cynthia Giddy' have very attractive spotted foliage that is not prone to the tip die-back that plagues so many other medium-sized aloes. Rancho Soledad Nursery in Rancho Santa Fe and Solana Succulents in Solana Beach usually have these outstanding aloes in stock. Their beautiful flowers and bold speckled foliage will be a stand out when placed in the foreground of both Mexican bush sages.

Soft and Colorful

For the front border of this planting, I wanted low-growing, kid-friendly plants, ones without the serrated edges or threatening spines that aloes and agaves have. Softer foliage plants along this garden's outer edges make it easier to tend without putting on full metal armor.

At each front corner and a few feet into the mid-center section, plant five mounding *Santolina* 'Nana', creating an undulating snake effect. *S.* 'Nana' is a dwarf form of the common lavender cotton and has very fine, whitish gray leaves. This compact form reaches only 1 foot high by 2 feet wide and forms a neat gray mound that resembles a small boulder. Bright yellow button-like flowers bloom in profusion, usually during summer. After the flowers fade, sheer the plant back by about half to retain its compact shape.

There should be plenty of bare ground for weaving in several plants of blue fescue around the santolina mounds. Blue fescue is a low clumping perennial grass with silvery-blue blades. The two

Blue fescue

Photo: Bob Wigand

hybrid fescues I most admire for their longer-bladed foliage are *Festuca* 'Siskiyou Blue' and *F.* 'Elijah Blue'. Either one would work as well.

The santolina and fescue thrive in most soils with little water, as do all the other perennials set among the bolder succulents in this themed plan. Making sure all the plants get along with the same low water requirements is important for the health of the garden as a whole. Plants with similar water requirements also make it much easier for the gardener to manage irrigation needs.

For a finishing touch, after all plants are in the ground, put a generous layer of course gravel over the entire surface. K.R.C. Rock has several choices but the one I think would work well is Desert Gold ¾-inch with its rich mix of earth-tones. The texture and color of the gravel will make all the plants in this setting look more natural and enhance the winning qualities of each.

While plants are young and open ground seems more noticeable, why not cast some California poppy seeds (*Eschscholzia californica*) for added spring color. Gingerly sprinkle the seeds atop the gravel; they will definitely find their way and be all the better for it. These seeds are so tiny they don't need planting. When winter rains begin, and we hope they do, the seeds will respond by finding the soil and sprouting.

- Judy Wigand is a lecturer and freelance garden writer. She operated Judy's Perennials, a specialty nursery, for 15 years in San Marcos.

Photo: Bob Wigand

Calandrinia grandiflora

Decorating With Ivy

By Patricia Riley Hammer

I feel like a great gardener when I can bring things in from my garden and make unique and natural decorations for a special event or holiday. That is one of the reasons I am so passionate about ivy. Everyone can go out and cut a few flowers and plop them in vase and say they have created a wonderful floral display. How many people can do it with a handful of greens?

There are more than 400 different cultivars of *Hedera helix* or English ivy and they come in an array of shapes, colors and sizes. They can have flat or curly leaves; they can be heart-shaped or look like the tracks of a bird in sand. Some are round and some resemble a fan. Most people are amazed at the range of colors from deep dark green to almost white as well as shades of lemon yellow, pink and red. Many are variegated and can be a combination of green, gray, white, cream yellow, pink and deep purple.

The assortment of sizes makes ivy a perfect choice for so many different decorating ideas. Ivy leaves can be as big as six inches wide and long—good for ivy placemats or even an entire table cover—or as small as ½ inch—great for tiny craft items.

Ivies can be trained up and around all sorts of forms or they can be planted in moss forms to create tabletop topiary. These very popular topiaries make wonderful interior decorations even without extra adornment. They can range from classic balls and cones to whimsical animals.

The decorations described below are great because they are so fast to make. I recall one Friday afternoon getting a call from an old friend who was coming to visit the next day. I had not seen this person for years and I really wanted to spruce up my house. After much deliberation, I remembered all those beautiful ivies I was growing. Here are some of the things I created.

Ivy Napkin Rings

Cut sprigs of your favorite ivies and crush the bottom inch of the stem. Submerge in lukewarm water and let soak for about an hour. Remove, shake off excess water, and weave the ends together forming a ring just the right size for your dinner napkins. Using a combination of different ivies will make them showy and unique.

Hedera helix 'Lady France' is a delicate, small and variegated gray-green with a white margin, perfect for a wedding-table setting. 'Ivalace' is a shiny dark-green ivy shaped like the leaf of the American holly. If you add a few red berries, at first glance it would pass as holly, which is traditionally used during the holidays.

Ivy Placemats

Cut runners of ivy from your outdoor ground cover or a pot with lots of large flat leaves and crush the bottom inch of the stem. The ivy leaves used here are *Hedera nepalensis*. Submerge the runners in a tub of lukewarm water and allow them to soak for about 24 hours. Remove from tub and shake off excess water. Spread the runners out to dry. After the ivy is dry, remove each leaf from the stem.

Use a paper doily as the base; the ivies will be glued onto the back. Place the doily flat so that the back side is facing up. Begin by gluing a row of ivy leaves, face side down, all the way around the outside edge of the doily using a hot glue gun. (The new cool glue is much friendlier to use but either will do).

Once that row is secure, start another row and glue these near the outside edge of the layer already fixed. Continue to glue rows of ivy leaves until the place mat is enlarged to the right size for your table and plates. When the mat is turned upright and a plate is sitting in the middle, all that will appear is a wonderful margin of ivy leaves.

Hedera algeriensis is a good ivy for this project because its average leaf is four inches wide and very flat. Another great ivy for this project is *Hedera algeriensis* 'Gloire de Marengo'. It has glossy green leaves edged in creamy white and has a similar growing habit to of *Hedera algeriensis*. Both of these ivies are originally from the Canary Islands and both have been referred to as *Hedera canariensis*. They grow prolifically around San Diego.

Other great ivies are *Hedera helix* 'Gold Child' or *Hedera helix* "Gold Heart.' Both are variegated green and yellow. 'Gold Heart' has a more intense coloring but the leaves are much smaller which requires more work.

Ivy Placemat

Photo: Abigail Cobb

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Ivies used in centerpiece:
Hedera helix 'Ritterkreuz'
Hedera helix 'Mini-green'
Hedera helix 'Golden Ingot'
Hedera helix 'Glacier'
Hedera helix 'Pin Oak'
Hedera helix 'Witchel'
Flowers used: *Celosia* and *Euphorbia*

Wreath made with Metallic Ivy

Cut ivy vines at least 18 inches long and crush the stem base. Submerge the vines in lukewarm water and soak for 24 hours. Shake off excess water and dry. Dip in clear floor wax or spray with Pogon Leaf Shine.

Shape a wreath using wire or a coat hanger. Spray paint the wire black. Wrap the ivy around the frame and tie with fish-line as needed. This process should be done while the ivy is still wet from the wax. Once the wreath is completed and dried, the leaves can be sprayed with gold, silver, or bronze floral paint.

Almost any small or medium ivy will work regardless of color or shape. Do not use a cultivar that is so curly that the wax or paint is unable to penetrate the crevasses and cover completely.

Good ivies for this project are *Hedera helix* 'Anita', 'Ritterkreuz', 'Star', 'Duck Foot', 'Deltoidea', 'Plume d' Or', and 'Cockle Shell' because each has a distinct leaf shape.

Hedera helix 'Ritterkreuz'

Hedera helix 'Plum d'Or'

Both Photos: Rachel Cobb

An Ivy Centerpiece

Fill a large 8- or 10-inch plastic pot half full of potting mix. Center a smaller empty pot in the middle. Plant newly rooted cuttings or small pots of ivy around and between the two pots filling with soil as needed.

Allow this to grow until the outer pot is covered. The space reserved in the middle can be filled with fresh flowers or other colorful plants such as begonias, impatiens or poinsettias. Use your imagination and think of other interesting things that will work in the space such as a large candle or hurricane globe with a candle.

Try using an assortment of the ivies you grow in this project. It is fun to mix the cultivars with different colors and leaf shapes and make each centerpiece unique.

It is hard to open any home magazine without seeing ivy used as a natural decoration. It is included in most floral arrangements, used in pots around the house, or shows up in the form of tabletop topiary. The next time you are having a party or just a few guests, try one of the simple crafts above and see what a great addition it will make to your décor.

- Patricia Riley Hammer is director of operations at the San Diego Botanic Garden. The former owner of Samia Rose Topiary, she is Vice President of the American Ivy Society. She is the author of The New Topiary, *available in the SDBG gift shop.*

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Mistletoe in trees near Julian

Mistletoe

Photo: Aenne Carver

Tales of Holiday Herbs

Some Add Spice While Another Brings Romance

By Aenne Carver

Luscious holiday scents waft through our homes, but have you ever wondered how certain herbs became associated with the holiday season? From the biblical frankincense and myrrh to the romantic mistletoe, these herbs add tradition and zest to our holidays.

Most people are only familiar with frankincense as a gift to the baby Jesus from the three wise men. Frankincense is a type of resin gathered like maple syrup from the desert tree *Boswellia thurifera*. A deep cut is made in the bark to release a milky sap that dries into a hard resin. The white clumps of this resin are burned as incense.

Frankincense trees need the rare environment of a desert combined with abundant morning mist. Consequently, the trees are found only in Southern Arabia, Northern Africa and India. Harvesting the resin is dangerous because the limestone soil and uncommon environment required by these trees is found on rocky cliffs near the sea.

In its heyday, the value of frankincense equaled that of gold. Many cultures burned frankincense as a tribute to their gods. The Egyptians used it to honor Ra; the Greeks to worship Zeus. Catholics burn frankincense during high mass.

The smoke from frankincense contains a psycho-active substance that is said to expand consciousness and produce a meditative state. Feeling stressed this holiday season? Try inhaling frankincense. You can readily buy it through Internet sources.

Blessings of Myrrh

The other herbal gift from the three wise men was myrrh. In ancient times, myrrh was used to treat sore throats, cankered gums and other infections. So, myrrh was a practical gift for baby Jesus.

Myrrh, like frankincense, is a resin collected from a desert tree *Commiphora myrrha*. There are a couple of other small trees in the same genus, *Commiphora,* that produce myrrh, but they have less fragrant resin and are rarely used.

Myrrh was used to purify and bless objects, and to embalm. In fact, when scientists un-wrapped a 3,000-year-old mummy, they reported the scent of myrrh was recognizable and strong.

Recently, myrrh has made a comeback as a cholesterol-lowering agent. The nutritional supplement called guggul is made from myrrh tree resin. People have jumped on the guggul bandwagon, but the jury remains out on any measurable and proven health benefits.

Frankinscence & Myrrh

Photo: Aenne Carver

Mistletoe's Fertile Ways

Mistletoe (*Phoradendron flavescens)* is another important herb of the holidays. Long before it became a prop for kissing, this plant was significant in many cultures. Mistletoe was associated with rebirth since it stayed green during the bleakest months. Today it is used by herbalists to ease high blood pressure and rheumatism.

This herb was named in the second century by the Anglo-Saxons. *Mistel* is their word for dung and *tan* means twig so their word, *misteltan,* meant bird droppings on a branch. They believed mistletoe sprang directly from bird droppings.

The facts are surprisingly close to the folklore. Birds eat mistletoe berries and their droppings then contain seeds that sprout on tree branches. Moreover, birds leave even more seeds by wiping the sticky berries off their beaks onto the branches. The stickiness helps the seeds adhere to the branch instead of falling to the ground.

An early Christian myth about mistletoe was that it was originally a tree. After it was used for wood for a cross to crucify Christ, God then punished the tree by turning it into the parasitic plant it is today.

A parasitic plant is one that needs another plant to survive, similar to a relative or friend who is a complete mooch. In the plant kingdom, the mooching increases as the mistletoe develops because the roots delve into the tree's bark and absorb nutrients. However, mistletoe does not kill the tree, because if it dies then the mistletoe would die.

Still wondering how the tradition of kissing underneath a parasitic plant began? Mistletoe, as far back as written records go, was linked to fertility. The round, white berries grow in pairs, and according to legend (and a wicked imagination) they resemble testicles. Kissing under this virile plant was believed to increase a relationship's fertility.

Some folklore suggests correct mistletoe etiquette requires the man to remove one berry for every woman he kisses. After the berries are gone, the kissing ends. However, gardeners kiss anyone under mistletoe, regardless.

Mistletoe brings on kisses, but it is toxic. Eating mistletoe creates stomach cramps and can be fatal in large quantities. Place mistletoe where children and pets cannot reach it.

The history of herbs is woven into the way we celebrate the holidays. Perhaps you will become the herb trivia master at your next celebration.

Happy Holidays.

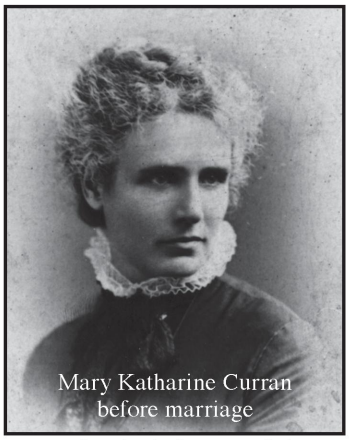
– Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She also is associate editor of this magazine. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com, for a schedule of her talks and classes.

ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

Mary Katharine Layne Curran Brandegee



Mary Katharine Curran before marriage

Courtesy The University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley

As the nineteenth century melted into the twentieth, one of the nation's most famous botanical couples lived and worked on an undeveloped San Diego mesa now called Bankers Hill. Around their herbarium and home on First Avenue, between Quince and Redwood Streets, Katharine Brandegee established San Diego's first botanic garden. Her husband, T. S. Brandegee, pioneered botanical explorations of the Baja interior and islands in the Sea of Cortez. Through their fieldwork, research and writing, the Brandegees are credited with elevating the quality and respectability of West Coast plant science at a time when all botanical wisdom and authority were thought to reside on America's Eastern shore.

The Brandegees conducted much of their fieldwork independent of each other, enduring hostile and remote locations, broken bones and shipwrecks to study plants and retrieve dried and living specimens. In addition to trips to Mexico, each botanized throughout California. Katharine was especially conservative in proclaiming the discovery of a new species and carefully studied plant variations and relationships. A botanic garden allowed her to observe a plant through its growth cycle and analyze plant behavior in an environment different from its field location.

The Brandegees garden was enriched by contributions from a far-flung network of plant scientists. Local nurserywoman Kate Sessions also delighted in providing rarities. Shortly after the African fern pine tree (*Afrocarpus gracilior,* formerly *Podocarpus*) was introduced from Kenya, she presented the Brandegees with one of three saplings she had acquired. It also was Sessions who propagated the new and botanically undescribed palm tree found on a 1902 Brandegee expedition to Baja, the San Jose Hesper palm (*Brahea brandegeei*).

In 1902, this private San Diego garden was mentioned, along with the world-famous Missouri Botanical Garden, as a place where important investigations could be made on living-type collections of cacti. The Brandegees welcomed an array of visitors. One botanist described the garden as "a botanical paradise, rare flowers blooming on all sides, mockingbirds, quail calling, and other native songbirds making the air musical with song." Another visitor mentions a "spacious botanical garden filled with rare natives."

The longest and most intimate description of the garden is the first-hand account of F. A. Walton, editor of the British *Cactus Journal,* who visited San Diego in 1899. "The wild land around the herbarium," he wrote, "is full of interesting plants that are growing in a state of nature while being studied and described . . . ." Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee are "enthusiastic botanists who have built a magnificent herbarium," where they spend most of their time. "They are the kind of people that do permanent good work in this world. . . . . They live in the midst of nature, surrounded by a natural garden and have the very best opportunities of studying plant life at their leisure."

Katharine Brandegee hoed a long row before reaching this point in her life. One of 10 children in an impoverished home, she received a spotty formal education as her restless father constantly moved the family. In Folsom, California, she found work teaching school and entered a difficult marriage. Eight years later, her husband died from complications of alcoholism. As a 31-year old widow, Katharine moved to San Francisco and, in 1875, became the third women admitted to the University of California medical school.

A rigorously trained émigré German scientist taught the compulsory courses in medicinal plants, taking his students on botanizing field trips around the Bay Area. Katharine's interest and intelligence won her a mentor in Dr. Hans Herman Behr and eventually, when her medical practice failed to flourish, he invited the young doctor into useful service at San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences, the premier scientific institution in the Western United States.

As a volunteer in the herbarium, she received exemplary botanical training and developed a life-long zeal for exacting plant taxonomy. In 1883, Katharine Layne Curran was appointed curator of the Academy herbarium, thereby becoming the second woman in the United States to hold a paid professional position in the field of botany. She brought order to the once neglected herbarium. She singlehandedly revived the stalled publishing program at the Academy of Sciences and later founded and edited the scientific journal, *Zoe*.

Katherine's meticulous scientific work and scholarly productivity earned credibility. At the same time, a naturally strong personality and her merciless critiques of slipshod science drew criticism for inappropriately bold and "unwomanly" behavior. Despite detractors, she became a force to be reckoned with at the California Academy of Sciences and beyond.

Katharine had passed her 40th birthday when an accomplished civil engineer and amateur botanist, Townshend Stith Brandegee, made his first visit to the California Academy of Sciences. Botany was just emerging as his prime interest and a legacy had recently assured his financial independence. He settled in San Francisco and joined Academy expeditions.

In 1889, Katharine met T. S. in San Diego for a quiet wedding upon his return from a scientific expedition to Baja. The honeymooners walked back to San Francisco, botanizing along the way. Contemporaries remarked on the passion in this mature meeting of hearts and minds and on the lifetime devotion of the Brandegees to each other and to plant science.

In 1894, the Brandegees relocated to San Diego. They camped on their new property while a building to hold their herbarium was constructed. Subsequently, a wing was added for their residence. (This building still stands at the property, now home to the Self Realization Center of San Diego.) By the time the Brandegees decided to return to the San Francisco Bay Area and donate their botanical specimens to the University of California in 1906, they had built the richest private herbarium ever assembled in the United States. Countless plant types were preserved from the San Diego botanic garden that Katherine Brandegee had created and nurtured. The Brandegees worked in the university herbarium for the rest of their lives.

For more than 20 years after the Brandegees had relocated, visiting botanical researchers sought out specimens among the surviving remnants of their San Diego garden. Locally, the significance of the region's first botanic garden went sadly unrecognized and no special preservation efforts were undertaken. Only a knowing few lamented the loss of the enchanting collection of rare trees and plants that once crowned Banker's Hill.

– Nancy Carol Carter is a San Diego Floral Association volunteer with a special interest in horticultural history. She also is associate editor of this magazine.

Courtesy The University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley

Katharine Brandegee on mule in Baja.

Mary Katharine Layne Curran Brandegee

Born Oct. 28, 1844—Died April 3, 1920

Botanist, author, editor, creator of San Diego's first botanic garden.

Dig deeper with: Nancy Carol Carter, "The Brandegees: Leading Botanists in San Diego," *Journal of San Diego History* 55, no. 4 (Fall 2009). Future availability on the San Diego History Center website.

"Brandegee, Mary Layne Curran," *Notable American women, 1607-1950: a Biographical Dictionary, Volume 2*, ed. Edward T. James, Janet Wilson James. Available online at Google Books.

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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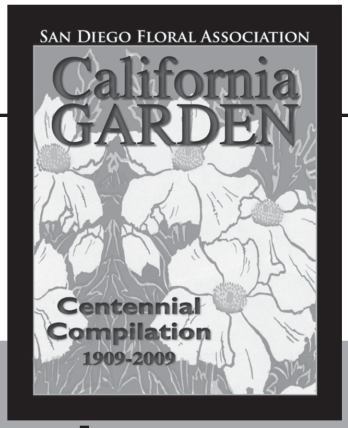

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Now is the time

Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout November and December

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Look for leaves that cup or have turned gray. There could be an insect infestation. Use a magnifying glass to look for pests.
- Pots should be one-third the width of the plant. Small plants may need to be potted down and larger plants may need to go into the next size of container.
- Violets should have only a single crown. Remove suckers and start them as "bonus" plants. Suckers tend to take away nourishment from the main crown.
- If you have plants with long necks, it is time to operate or the plant will eventually curl over and droop to one side. Remove lower leaves and cut the neck two inches below the remaining bottom leaves. Scrape the sides lightly so that roots will form more easily. Allow the neck to "heal" for half an hour and plant. Cover the new plant with a plastic bag and keep it in a dark place with no fertilizer so it can rejuvenate before going back into the sunlight.
- Water your plants with warm water to avoid shock.

BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Continue watering.
- Clean out spent blooms and dead leaves.
- Add soil or mulch to keep roots covered.
- Spray for pests, insects and mildew.
- Feed lightly several times a month unless using a time release fertilizer.

BONSAI

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Stop fertilizing.
- November brings hot and dry Santa Ana winds. Watch for spider mites. Hose junipers and pines vigorously on dry days and be mindful of temperature and humidity fluctuations.
- Clean up deciduous trees by removing old leaves, seeds and fruit.
- Pull old pine needles.

BROMELIADS

Mary Seimers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Cut down on watering; bromeliads do not need much water during cold months.
- Clean plants before winter. Cut off dead leaves and spent blooms. Check for scale.
- To protect plants from frostbite during winter, it helps to keep them about 30 inches or so above ground level. When freezing temperatures are expected, cover them with old sheets. (Plastic is not recommended.)
- During the rainy season, give plants overhead protection to prevent hail damage.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

Laura & Don Starr, The Grateful Shed

- Keep up to date on weather forecasts for possible freezing temperatures in your microclimate.
- If frost is predicted, especially accompanied by rain, be sure to protect your succulents by taking ones in containers into a dry area with an overhead structure. For those plants in the garden or landscape, float plastic sheeting over the areas with the most succulents. If available, a light covering of hay also can help. Many succulents will tolerate a short period of freezing temperatures. The larger, tougher-leafed varieties such as crassulas, sempervivums and kalanchoes are among them.
- If frost is predicted, avoid watering. Most succulents and cacti are winter dormant and do not need much water, unless we have Santa Ana conditions.
- Winter growers are happy in these months. Aeoniums are growing and it is a good time to take cuttings and propagate them. Dudleyas and senecios are in their growing periods as well. *Euphorbia milii* or crown of thorns will be in full bloom during the winter. This plant has sharp spines and the sap of this and all euphorbias can be very irritating to the skin, eyes or mouths of pets and people. It can be grown indoors but we don't recommend it.
- Note the seasonal changes in sunlight in your garden. Move containers into areas where they will get more sunlight.
- Clear away lingering summer debris from those plants in the landscape.
- Check to be sure no container plants are sitting in saucers that might accumulate water. Keep mulches away from the stems of your succulents.
- Try incorporating your potted plants or cuttings into holiday decorations both indoors and outside. Put a few of your favorite potted specimens in a pretty basket to enliven a room. Varieties in holiday hues *Crassula* 'Campfire' (red leaves); *Schlumbergera* (red, white or orange flowers); *Aeonium* 'Cameo' (red and green) and *Aeonium* 'Kiwi' (red, green and orange) and *Echeveria agavoides* 'Lipstick' (red-tipped green foliage).
- Give someone a potted succulent that will last for years.

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- Fertilize monthly (September through January) with 2-10-10 for extra large blooms.
- Remove all but the largest bud where bud clusters exist. Disbudding provides fewer but larger blooms.
- Pick up blooms that fall to the ground to prevent petal blight.
- Feed with an iron supplement to grow dark green leaves.
- Maintain a regular watering regimen. Don't let plants dry our, but if it rains heavily, cut back on supplemental watering.
- Prune out branches that might prevent buds from opening.
- Watch for aphids, mites, loopers and other insects and treat accordingly. Note that camellias suffer from few insect problems.
- Move, re-pot or bare-root and re-pot now since camellias are beginning their dormant season (October through March). When planting, whether in the soil or in a pot, plant 1 inch higher than soil level. Camellias don't like their crowns covered.
- Remember some camellias like shady spots and some like sun. Check your nursery tag or ask the nursery personnel.
- Look for Camellias in the nursery now. *Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide' blooms during the holidays thus the name. Other midseason (December through February) bloomers are 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Tiffany', 'Debutante', 'Silver Waves', 'High Fragrance', and 'Scentsation'.

DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Withhold water and fertilizer to allow the plants to go dormant.
- Allow plants to dry. When brown about 12 inches from the ground, cut off the stalk. Leave tubers in the ground to harden off if there is good drainage. Otherwise lift roots before the heavy rains.
- Wash clumps after digging. Let dry a few hours before storing. If dividing tubers, treat cut with soil sulfur. Store in vermiculite or other medium.
- Store out of the weather. Be sure tubers are tagged before storing.
- Get your new tuber orders ready for buying from the major growers. Orders are shipped first come first serve. They usually ship in February or March.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

- Save rain water for plants. Most ferns aren't growing much this time of year. Do not over water.
- Trim off dead fronds.
- Fertilize in early November; then let the plants rest until spring.
- Remove and remount *Platycerium* pups.
- Sow spores.
- Look for snails, slugs, giant whiteflies and other pests. Treat as necessary.
- Protect plants when the weather dips below 40 degrees F.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Prune deciduous trees and vines after their foliage has dropped. Wait until early spring to prune evergreens.
- Spray dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil to kill scale, insects, spider mites and other over-wintering pests.
- Spray peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) to control leaf curl.
- Order low chill, bare root trees and vines to plant in December or January.
- Provide frost protection for young avocado, citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.
- Learn more about backyard orchards at http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu.

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Plan your winter/spring herb garden.
- Perennials to plant this time of year include rosemary, lavender, thyme and rue.
- Annual herbs for the vegetable and flower beds include borage, calendula, cilantro, chickweed, chives and nasturtium.
- Prune to shape native sage, rosemary and lavender.
- Cut mints down to the ground and add soil amendment.
- Harvest lemongrass, chaste berries, gingko leaves and fennel seed.
- Remember to include coriander, marjoram, tarragon and saffron in your holiday cooking.

IRISES

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- If you did not fertilize after the bloom season, do it now and use a low nitrogen fertilizer like 6-20-20, or even a 10-10-10.
- Be sure to clean out all dead leaves and look for aphids at the base of the leaves. Spray with a systemic insect control spray to prevent pests from wintering over.
- Keep your iris beds free of weeds.
- It is not too late to dig and divide your clumps and replant the rhizomes.
- If you have rebloomers, you need to fertilize and water more to get them to bloom. When you fertilize, spread it around the clump; try to avoid putting it directly on rhizomes.

NATIVE PLANTS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Prepare the native landscape for winter and spring.
- Dig new holes for plantings. Water several times before planting. Little or no soil amendments should be used. The next few months are the best for establishing native plants.
- Sow wildflower seeds - California poppy, Chinese houses, mountain garland, owl's cover and farewell-to-spring.
- It is wonderful to sow or plant just before a big storm or between storms.

ORCHIDS

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Look for aphids and other pests on spikes of the Mexican *Laelia* you grow outside.
- Water plants before noon and protect outdoor orchids from evening moisture. Do not overwater outdoor plants. They tend to rot easily this time of year.
- Water and fertilize less in the winter than during the summer. Developing spikes, however, do appreciate some fertilizer and extra water.
- Train developing spikes on cymbidiums.
- Acclimate cool-growing orchids to your outdoor growing area.

PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Start a pruning program. To get fuller plants and more blooms in the spring, start now by cutting back one-third of the stems about two-thirds of their length. Tip pinch the rest of the stems. Cut back one-half of the remaining stems in 30 days and the rest in 60 days. If the rest of the stems have budded out heavily in new growth, you may want to cut them back now.
- Start new plants from cuttings. Put the end of stem cuttings in pots or well-draining trays of damp perlite. Space cuttings three inches apart in trays or place uniformly in pots and water when dry. Do not fertilize for the first 30 days.
- Clean plants by removing dead, damaged or older leaves. Watch for geranium rust in high humidity areas and treat appropriately.
- Although less water is needed in cooler months, be careful not to let plants get too dry. If your plants are in pots, remember that the foliage will cause rain to run off outside the pot. So even if the weather is damp, it is important to maintain your water cycle. Avoid getting the foliage wet when watering.
- Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply at two week intervals.
- Budworms continue at this time of year. Use a good systemic insecticide for best results. Follow manufacturers' dosage recommendations and apply at 30-day intervals.
- Protect plants from heavy weather. Move them under eves, trees or temporary shelters during heavy rains.

PLUMARIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Prepare plants for winter dormancy.
- Feed well with high phosphorous fertilizer (10-60-10).
- Remove dead flowers and leaves.
- Place next to a building or under a covered patio to protect from wet and cold. Cover soil on large pots with mulch.
- Bring plants inside in frost areas.
- Once leaves are dormant, hold back all water and fertilizer.

ROSES

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

- Deep-dig around individual bushes and incorporate organic amendments before the fall rains. Remove old tree and shrub roots. They rob your roses of water and nutrients.
- Reduce watering but do not allow bushes to become too dry if fall rains are light.
- Remove non producing bushes. Prepare new planting holes by adding amendments and superphosphate to soil to give bare-root roses a good start.
- Prune floribundas in late December but wait to prune hybrid teas until the buds begin to swell in January or early February. Consult rosarians in your area for the best date.
- Clean up rose beds and use a dormant spray once before pruning and again after pruning before buds leaf out.
- Double check your equipment before pruning. Don't forget gloves and knee pads.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Remove and compost warm-season vegetables to prevent pests and diseases from over-wintering on them.
- Continue planting cool-season vegetables that will not be subject to frost injury.
- Plant seeds of short-day onions (Grano, Granex, or Chrystal Wax), and garlic cloves in November for bulbs next summer.
- Plant dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb. To avoid crown rot of rhubarb, plant crowns in containers filled with porous potting soil and transplant into a garden where drainage is good after several leaves have developed.
- Learn more about vegetable gardening at http://vric.ucdavis.edu.

Exotic New Pest Sparks Quarantine

The Light Brown Apple Moth Threatens Food and Ornamental Plants

By Vincent Lazaneo

Photo: Courtesy California Department of Food & Agriculture

Neighborhoods in the heart of San Diego are inside the boundaries of a state interior quarantine area established in September to combat a harmful invasive pest, the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). The exotic moth, native to Australia, was trapped in late July and August on two residential properties located near the intersection of Highways 805 and 15 (about one mile east of Balboa Park). The discovery triggered a quarantine extending at least 1.5 miles from the find sites. The quarantine map can be viewed at http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/pqm/manual/pdf/maps/3434LBAMSanDiego.pdf .

The purpose of the quarantine is to keep LBAM from spreading to other areas. Most plant material can not be moved out of the quarantined area unless it has been inspected by an agriculture official. The quarantine will probably last at least six months. It will only end when no moths are found after a period of time has elapsed which would allow the development of three generations to occur.

How You Can Help

If you suspect the presence of LBAM on your property, please call the California Exotic Pest & Disease Information Line at 800-491-1899. Also do not remove any live plants, cut flowers or foliage, or green waste from the LBAM quarantine area. Invasive species such as LBAM can enter the United States when travelers bring fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, soil and other agricultural items in from foreign countries. Please leave these items in the country you are visiting.

History

LBAM was not known to be in California until March 2007 when it was confirmed in two counties, Alameda and Contra Costa. The pest has since spread to other locations in a number of counties in Central and Southern California. Federal, state and county agriculture agencies are working together to control the pest and hope eventually to eradicate it from the state. They are employing a number of strategies against the pest including use of mating disruption compounds, rearing and releasing sterile moths, releasing parasitic wasps for biological control, limited pesticide application, continued surveillance and stringent quarantine restrictions. Evaluation of the program's effectiveness will be ongoing.

Pest Damage

The failure to eradicate LBAM and its widespread establishment throughout California would result in damage to a variety of plants grown in home gardens and landscapes. There would also be substantial economic harm to important agricultural crops and the state's native environment. The moth's larvae feed on more than 1,000 types of plants found throughout the United States, including 250 fruits and vegetables.

Vulnerable crops include apple, pear, peach, apricot, citrus, persimmon, avocado, walnut, grapes, kiwi, cane berries and corn. Native trees at risk include pines, oaks and willows. Common ornamental host plants include rose, camellia, jasmine, chrysanthemum, magnolia, alder and eucalyptus. Additional plants not previously associated with LBAM could also be damaged.

Pest Identification

LBAM is a small brown moth that looks similar to other closely related moths found in California. The moth's size can vary but is typically 8-10 millimeters long, just over half the size of a dime. The moths' color is generally pale, yellow-brown with darker brown markings on the forewings. Adults hold their wings over their body in a bell shape when at rest and have protruding mouth parts that resemble a snout.

Female moths typically lay 20-50 eggs in a group but may lay clusters from 2-170. The eggs are pale yellow to light green, oval and flat in shape. Eggs hatch into larvae which shed their skin 5 times as they grow and reach a mature length of .4 to .7 inches. The larvae transform into adults inside a pupae which is found in a thin walled silken cocoon made between two or more leaves.

In mild winter areas, LBAM may have four or more overlapping generations during the year. The lifespan of the adults is two to three weeks. The moths are capable of flying a short distance (usually less than 300 feet) to find a suitable host plant.

The LBAM larvae is a leaf roller which rolls leaves around itself and spins a very fine web to create a protective nest. The larvae disburse widely, each creating a nest on a separate leaf. Then it begins to feed. Older, larger larvae feed on two to more leaves webbed together, on a leaf webbed to a fruit or in the center of a fruit cluster. Larvae feed inside their shelters and may feed on fruit if it touches a leaf. Damage is usually confined to the surface of a fruit but small larvae may also burrow into apples, pears and stone fruit.

LBAM larvae can seriously damage commercial fruit crops and losses of 5 to 20 percent are common in New Zealand. Based on this level of damage, California growers could experience up to $2.4 billion of annual crop losses if LBAM becomes widely established in the state.

–Vincent Lazaneo is urban horticulture advisor for UC Cooperative Extension.

Fruits of the Season

Persimmons and Pomegranates Bring Bold Colors and Flavors to the Holiday Scene

Story and Photos by Meredith French

The first harbingers of the winter holidays here are the beautiful fruits hanging like ornaments from the region's persimmon and pomegranate trees. Some are cultivated for pleasure in backyard gardens, but there also is a thriving industry in our inland valleys, like Pauma Valley. Both are of high interest to gardeners as trees, as well as for the flavor and versatility of their fruit.

Persimmons to Grow

Persimmon fruits are categorized as either astringent or non-astringent when ready for harvest. Astringent varieties need to be soft-ripe for safe consumption, whereas non-astringent types are edible when still firm.

The Japanese or Oriental persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* and subsequent cultivars) that we grow and eat originally came from Japan and China via Admiral Commodore Perry in 1856. This "food of the gods" can be grown here in Sunset's zones 6-9, 14-16 and 18-24 and produce wonderful fall color with both the foliage and fruit on a handsome tree that can reach 30 feet tall. Flowers are relatively inconspicuous and somewhat resemble waxy stephanotis blossoms. Most varieties can set fruit without pollination but apparently, they are not as tasty.

Fruit of the non-astringent varieties is round with somewhat flattened ends. When ripe the fruit is firm like an apple with a rather sweet flavor varying with the variety. Firm, non-astringent varieties such as 'Fuyu', 'Jiro', 'Izu', 'Maro', 'Gosho' or 'Chocolate' have a better flavor if allowed to soften some but are certainly edible when orange and just plucked from the tree. These are great sliced in salads but can also be dried or cooked. The dried flattened fruit is a special delight in eastern Asia and can be found in specialty markets here.

The most popular astringent persimmon is 'Hachiya'. It is somewhat heart-shaped and, when fully ripe, is a deep orange and feels quite soft. It is best eaten raw; slice off the top and eat with a spoon. Some describe the taste as honey-like with plum, apricot, pumpkin and mango flavors laced with a perfume or spice. These persimmons also can be cooked, baked in cookies and bread or pureed for puddings, curries, sauces or jams.

Worth mentioning is a second astringent species - *Diospyros virginiana*, a native to the eastern middle latitudes of North America. Native Americans called it *putchamin* or "dried fruit" and in that form, it was an important source of vitamins A and C and calcium for tribes in regions where winters were long and bitter. Popular cultivars are 'Meader' and 'Early Golden'.

All persimmon trees should be pruned when young to establish a good framework. Subsequent pruning should be limited to removing dead wood, shaping or reducing density in the tree's interior. These trees tolerate a variety of soils as long as there is good drainage. Premature fruit drop is an indication of inconsistent watering. Give them regular water and feed once in the late winter or early spring. They are quite pest resistant.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates to Grow

Another popular source of holiday decoration and food is the fruit of many legends, the pomegranate (*Punica granatum* or "seeded apple"). Mentioned many times in the Bible and Talmud as well as in early Hindu and Greek writings, this striking plant was first cultivated on the Iranian plateau through northern India. From there it spread east and west. It was first introduced into California in 1769 and even earlier in the English colonies but with little success there.

Pomegranates grow best in semi-arid, mild climates with winter or summer rainfall. The trees are prone to root rot and fungal diseases with too much water, but when grown in the right conditions, they are very long lived. Some have survived more than 200 years.

The fruit with its crown or upright calyx has become a symbol of fruitfulness, abundance, fertility, prosperity and good luck through the centuries and for many cultures. Granada, Spain, was named for it as was Punica, the Roman name for Carthage where the best pomegranates at the time were found. The fruit is considered a berry with many seeds (600 plus) arranged in divisions between layers of pulp and surrounded by a thick, usually red, skin. The seed casings or arils contain a very sweet to mildly sweet/tart juice, depending on the ripeness and cultivar.

Methods for removing these arils from the pulp without permanently staining utensils, clothing, or cutting boards have become the butt of many a culinaire's jokes. Of the suggested methods, scoring the fruit and pulling it apart under water appear to be the most popular. Once it is in pieces, push the rind in with your thumbs and pull the edges toward you so that the seeds pop off. Bits of pulp will float to the top and can be skimmed off. Another method is to freeze the fruit and then dissemble it.

If all you want is the juice, cutting the fruit in half and using an orange juicer is a quick, although somewhat messy, method. Another method for juice extraction is to roll the fruit so the arils are broken, pierce it at the stem and place it over a drinking glass. Occasionally squeezing will extract more juice.

For ripe fruit, look for those close to the cracking stage but still smooth. A tap on the surface should yield a metallic sound. Fruits will keep up to 7 months at 32-41 degrees F. and 80 to 85 percent relative humidity.

Pomegranates are most popular here as a fruit juice or grenadine for cocktails. But they also can flavor sauces and marinades and decorate salads, fruit dishes and vegetables. Dried they can be used in trail mix or granola. The fruit is high in vitamins B5, B6, and C and potassium. Besides food value, the fruit is used for decorative purposes around the world for various holidays.

Fruiting trees grow from 12 to 16 feet tall and can be used as a hedge, in a border or as a foundation plant depending on the cultivar. Branches are stiff, angular and carry spines. The trees need well-drained soil, sun and high temperatures during the fruiting period for best flavor. They will tolerate moderate salinity. They self-pollinate but cross-pollination by insects will increase fruit set. Fruit matures 5-7 months after the appearance of blossoms that can be single or double and range in color from light to deep orange-red.

After the first season in the ground, prune back the sapling late in the dormant season to 2 feet and allow 4-5 shoots to develop evenly around the stem. Remove suckers. Shorten the branches the first 3 years to encourage foliage to fill in and balance the tree. Water every 2 to 4 weeks in the dry season when first planted.

Of the cultivars available in San Diego County, 'Wonderful' is the best known. It has orange-red flowers and its fruit has a truer red skin. 'Fleishman' and 'Balegal' are very sweet and have pale pink skin. 'Sweet' is even sweeter and very ornamental with yellow flowers and pink pulp. 'Early Wonderful' and 'Francis' are prolific producers and, if the skin color matters, 'Green Globe' is just what its name infers. Early maturing 'Eversweet' is almost seedless (!) with rather transparent pulp and clear juice.

–Meredith French is a Master Gardener and professional photographer.

Persimmon

Succulents in a Holiday Mood

Pick Plants Aglow with Red Foliage and Flowers for Seasonal Sparkle

By Jim Bishop

Photo: Jim Bishop

Around the holidays and into the New Year, Jim Bishop's garden glows with the colorful foliage and flowers of many succulents, including agaves, euphorbias, sedums, senecios, gasterias and kalanchoes.

As the holidays approach, many of us dig out boxes of artificial greenery or perhaps splurge on the real thing that eventually ends up in a landfill. But with a little planning, your succulent garden can decorate itself for the holidays and you'll have the most colorful display in your neighborhood.

To create a colorful holiday succulent garden, you need to understand growth cycles as some succulents grow in winter, some in summer. Winter growers usually come from areas of the world with a climate similar to San Diego's—winter rain, sunny days and cool nights (think Southern Africa, Canary Islands). The summer growers that go dormant in our winter come from tropical areas of the world such as the highlands of Mexico and Central America, where summers bring rain and winters are often dry.

With rain, the winter growers plump up quickly. The summer growers produce less chlorophyll in winter, allowing colors other than green to come through. For many in both groups, the shorter days also trigger blooming. To get foliage color in winter, it is best to limit water, use no fertilizer, provide direct sunlight and hope for very cool, clear nights. A notable and colorful exception is aeoniums, more about them later. Most succulents also need some frost and/or freeze protection.

When choosing succulents for flower color, it's best to buy when they are in bloom. There can be tremendous variation even among plants with the same parents, and you don't want to end up with an aloe with vivid orange blooms when you wanted deep red.

How to pick the right succulents for a festive holiday look? Here's a guide to some of the best performers and how to use them in your garden.

Red Flowers

Finding a true red can be difficult; most flowers tend to be red-orange or red-purple. Here are a few good choices:

Euphorbia milii (Crown of thorns)—These are summer bloomers; however given enough sun, many new cultivars bloom year-round. 'Jerry's Choice' not only is a compact plant with cherry-red

blooms all year, but it also has forest-green leaves tipped with maroon and red. Some find it more attractive than a poinsettia (also a euphorbia) and it's a better year-round performer.

***Cotyledon orbiculata* var. *oblonga* 'Macrantha'**—A 1-2-foot tall, stout trunk holds many branches of rounded fleshy true green leaves that are edged with red. Plant it near the front door where flower spikes decorated with pendulous red bell-shaped flowers show up on a cue every year towards the end of December. To keep it short and attractive, cut it back regularly, throw out the old trunks and re-root the growing tips directly in the ground.

Kalanchoe manginii—This low growing, spreading plant has 1-inch long narrow, shiny, dark green leaves. The stems bear masses of brilliant scarlet bell-shaped flowers in winter. This plant looks best in pots or hanging baskets where it can spill over the edge. Very easy to grow from cuttings. Looks best with regular water and some shade.

Aloe excelsa—This aloe thrives best with plenty of water during its growing season but likes a dry period in late fall when impressive flowers appear. The branched inflorescence carries 10-15 densely flowered spikes of orange to deep crimson. This is a big plant and best used in a landscape. There are many other large single-trunk aloes that bloom in winter with colors ranging from yellow, orange, lime green, red and purple and combinations of all of these. Flowers can be single spikes or huge candelabra. Not many are red-flowered, but when in bloom they are showstoppers and the focal point of the garden. Some of the best large aloes are *ferox, speciosa, marlothii, thraskii, aculeata* and *africana*. All do well in large pots, but look their best in the ground.

***Aloe arborescens* & hybrids**—These are the large aloe clumps frequently seen in parks, old gardens and along the freeway. Locals take their winter bloom for granted but out-of-town visitors find their show spectacular. Most have red-orange bloom spikes but there are numerous cultivars and hybrids that offer a range of colors from pale yellow to deep red. Some even show yellow or orange and red all on the same bloom spike. Nearly impossible to distinguish when not in bloom, so best purchased in full bloom. Deadhead soon after blooming to keep the plant looking neat and prevent aloe mite infection, which is carried by hummingbirds. Though not needed, some summer water improves appearance. Very easy to grow from cuttings, they look best planted in the garden and given room.

Kalanchoe delagoensis—This plant is commonly called "Mother of Thousands" for the small, easily detached plantlets on the fringes of its fleshy tubular khaki-green mottled leaves. Some consider this plant invasive, but it's easily controlled. Another common name is "Chandelier Plant" for the flower spike it produces topped with dangling cylindrical flowers. Most flowers are orange or brownish-orange. However, a few have red flowers, so be sure to see this plant in bloom before planting it in your garden.

Schlumbergera (Christmas cactus)—Christmas cacti originated in the South American mountain jungles and are available in a multitude of colors including red. They bloom when dormant and need natural light and cool nights to bloom successfully. A sudden shock (like a heated house) can cause them to drop their buds and blooms. However, a happy Christmas cactus can bloom reliably for decades. Most do well in pots placed in full to part shade outdoors.

Red or Nearly-Red Foliage

While true red foliage is rare, many succulents put on impressive color displays in the winter. Part of the fun is seeing the variability from plant to plant, location to location and year to year. Just a slight change in the weather or location can create a huge difference in color.

Aeoniums—Most aeoniums originate in the Canary Islands where summers are dry and winters cool and moist. They have rosettes of leaves that can curl up into a tight ball if kept dry during the summer. There aren't any true red aeoniums, but many have beautiful leaves that are tinged with purple, plum, eggplant, bronze and other colors.

Aeoniums look best planted in partial shade or dappled sunlight. After several years, the main trunk elongates, blooms and then dies. You can cut off the leggy yellow flower stock in full bloom and stick it back in the ground to create new interest or to light up a dark corner in the garden.

There are many hybrids, with new ones arriving every year. Favorites for color are those where the rosette center is lime-green and outer leaves are tinged with purple. One of the best is 'Plum Purdy'. Below are some other hybrids and a species to consider.

***Aeonium* 'Kiwi'**—For yellow and green variegated foliage with red edges, try 'Kiwi', a bush-like aeonium with lots of 2-3- inch wide rosettes. Bright winter sun turns its leaves yellow with a pronounced red outline.

***Aeonium* 'Sunburst'**—This aeonium also has yellow-green variegated rosettes 6-10 inches across on stems up to 18 inches tall. It gets a slight reddish blush in winter. If it gets too tall, cut the top off and re-root it to get a shorter plant. The original trunk often will produce new rosettes.

Aeonium 'Cyclops'—The huge green/purple head of leaves on this aeonium can be up to 18 inches across on a 2-3-foot stem. It seems to expand before your eyes after first rain.

Aeonium nobile—This robust species forms large rosettes of thick, fleshy, rounded, olive-green leaves with edges prominently tinged red. After several years, an up to 2-foot tall unbranched stem forms a very large, flowering head made of thousands of bright red flowers. The plant dies after blooming but produces lots of seed. Hard to find, so if you see one buy it.

Aloes—Most aloes will show some red, bronze or copper when subjected to bright sun, low water and cool nights, but some are better than others. Here are some of the most reliable:

Aloe cameronii—This medium-sized multi-branched aloe has many upright stems of open rosettes and lax narrow leaves that are medium to dark green. With low water, it turns a beautiful coppery red. In late fall and early winter, it bears 1-foot tall spikes of bright orange-red flowers. To enhance the red coloration of the foliage, grow in full sun and water only occasionally.

Aloe vaombe—A great centerpiece specimen for the garden, this aloe offers both red foliage *and* red flowers in a stunning combination in January. A large single-trunk succulent growing slowly to 12 feet or more, *Aloe vaombe* has large solitary rosettes up to 5 feet across of recurved, long, smooth green leaves edged by yellow teeth that take on rich red tones in winter. The fiery red

flowers are borne in erect branched racemes in mid winter. Plant in full sun to get the best color. Native to Southern Madagascar, this plant likes moderate to regular summer water.

Aloe vanbalenii—This stemless aloe forms a wide, low clump 1-2 feet tall by 3 feet wide. It has long, gracefully twisted leaves that give it a wavelike or moving appearance. Given water and some shade, the leaves are yellow-green with rusty red edges. However, in winter the entire leaf can be red if grown in full sun and kept dry. In late winter, a very long lasting, graceful, multi-branched flower spike of yellow to orange-yellow flowers is produced.

Aloe dorotheae—This nicely colored, low growing aloe form clumps of rosettes to 20 inches wide on short stems to 10 inches tall. The short, shiny, waxy leaves are colored greenish-yellow to bright orange-red often with some white spotting when young and stiff spines along the margins. In mid to late winter, a 1-2-foot flower spike rises above the foliage with dark flower buds that have green at the tips and open to show greenish-yellow petals. The rosettes have green centers when watered.

Kalanchoe thyrsiflora—This kalanchoe, commonly called flap jacks, is also known as disco. A striking succulent, its 6-inch round leaves look like upright pancakes. Each is brightly tinted with red edges on a powdery lime green surface. This is a summer grower and needs dry conditions in the winter. In early winter, it still has much of its red color if planted in full sun.

Echeveria agavoides—Commonly known as the lipstick echeveria, this plant has waxy green rosettes that look like miniature agaves with lipstick-red coated tips. It spreads slowly with new rosettes appearing at the base of old rosettes. Like many other succulents, bright sun and cool weather can give the entire plant a reddish cast.

Crassula—*Crassula capitella* 'Campfire' and *Crassula pubescens* ssp. *radicans* have red leaves when stressed by drought, sun or cold. Both are less than 1-foot tall, and have rounded or oblong leaves.

Other non-red plants

While the focus has been on red for holiday color, there are countless other succulents in colors such as white-grays, deep greens and frosty-looking variegation that work well with the reds to complete a garden and provide year-round color. Mixing in a few other non-succulent water-smart plants creates contrast and adds depth and texture in the garden. So, why wait? Start planting your holiday garden now and leave the boxes of artificial greenery in the attic.

-Jim Bishop is a lifelong gardener and plant enthusiast. His garden, featured in numerous books and magazines, has been on many garden tour and garden club events. He has served as the assistant coordinator of the Flower and Garden at the San Diego County Fair and is on the board of directors of the San Diego Horticultural Society. In 2006, he turned his passion into his vocation with the start of Bishop Garden Design, helping homeowners turn their gardens into water-wise living works of art.

A deep red aloe is surrounded by the rosy-red and green foliage of *Crassula* 'Campfire'.

Photo: Meridith French

Photo: Jim Bishop

Euphorbia milii

Aloe dawei

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Photo: Jim Bishop

Aeonium 'Plum Purdy'

Kalanchoe thyrsiflora

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Old World Desert Garden, San Diego Botanic Garden

Succulent Resources

- **Daylily Hill** – 32183 Old Highway 395, Escondido; www.daylilyhill.com
- **Oasis Water Efficient Gardens** – 10816 Reidy Canyon Trail, Escondido; www.oasis-plants.com
- **The Home Depot** – various locations around the county
- **Rancho Soledad Nursery** – 18539 Aliso Canyon Rd., Rancho Santa Fe; www.ranchosoledad.com
- **Armstrong Garden Centers** – various locations around the county
- **Exotic Gardens** – 2212 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego; www.exoticgardens.biz

A Garden Conversation: Bill Homyak

A new botanic garden is growing in South Bay. Spearheaded by Bill Homyak and Meredith Sinclair, professors of Landscape and Nursery Technology at Southwestern College, the South Bay Botanic Garden is rooted in a 4-acre teaching garden on the college's Chula Vista campus. Horticulture students studying and working there are now joined by visitors who stroll specialty gardens to relax or seek ideas for their own gardens.

In this Garden Conversation, Homyak reflects on the garden's brief history, takes us on a tour of its major attractions and suggests ways to help this new green venture thrive.

Tell us a little about your life in horticulture and how you became a professor in Landscape and Nursery Technology at Southwestern College.

I was raised as a Navy "brat" and attended 10 different schools for my K-12 education in California, Texas, Florida and Virginia. I graduated from Mission Bay High School in San Diego and then attended California State University, Fresno. I was originally a math major but soon found that calculus was not for me. Since I was a member of the golf team and also enjoyed gardening, I became an ornamental horticulture major with an emphasis on turf management.

After earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees, I became the grounds maintenance superintendent for a retirement condominium community in Carmel, CA. I also started teaching part-time. I soon found that I enjoyed teaching and after 3 years, I began looking for a full-time teaching position. In January 1980, I joined the Landscape and Nursery Technology program at Southwestern College. I have held that job ever since.

What inspired you to spearhead development of the South Bay Botanic Garden? What is your role in the garden today?

Both Meredith Sinclair (the other full time professor in our department) and I have watched our 4-acre horticulture site grow into a very beautiful and diverse garden. Visitors were frequently surprised both to find a garden on the Southwestern College campus and at how pretty it was. In an attempt to publicize the garden and involve our local community, we had the garden recognized by the American Public Garden Association as a registered botanic garden three years ago. We then invited the general public to become members and attend monthly meetings to help direct the garden's future. Today, my role is to oversee membership and help them improve the facility.

The garden's grounds have been a living laboratory for your students. Is it still used for classes? If so, how?

The garden's main purpose is still for training students. The garden is used to teach horticultural students landscape construction techniques, plant identification, plant propagation and nursery skills, as well as provide materials for our floral design courses. Since this is a learning garden, decisions about the future of the South Bay Botanic Garden are subservient to the college's training mission. However, this is not a problem. It helps keep the botanic garden current with developing garden and landscape trends and lab projects by our students often help improve the garden and keep it well maintained.

What is your vision for the garden in the short term and long term?

Our short-term goal has been to involve various plant clubs and plant communities in the use and development of the garden. Recently, the San Diego Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers took on the challenge to provide and plant a wide variety of unusual and rare fruiting plants in our garden. We also recently learned that the San Diego Epiphyllum Society might supplement our Tropical House with a collection of its own. Additionally, the Chula Vista and Bonita Valley Garden Clubs provided plants and volunteer assistance. We encourage these organizations to get involved in any way they can. For example, we have a rose collection that is crying out for better care. Would members of the local rose society like to help?

As for long term goals, we are looking to get better signage on local streets and highways to help let people know we are here. We also hope to keep growing our annual South Bay Green Scene event and our Saturday Walks and Talks series. And, while we are not there yet, we hope to recruit enough volunteers to have a person on hand at all times to greet our visitors. Who knows, we may even be able to start a gift shop!

SBBG Entrance

Photo: Bill Homyak

Describe what visitors to the garden will find there today?

We have worked hard over the past three years since we have become a registered botanic garden to provide garden themes or features that the public can enjoy. Here is summary of what you will find when you visit:

Tropical House: Set inside a greenhouse, the Tropical House has more than 50 different tropical plants growing along a waterfall, stream and disappearing pond.

Cacti and Succulent Collection

Photo: Bill Homyak

Cacti and Succulent Collection: Located along our garden road and in a very sunny location, this collection contains more than 100 different plants with low-water needs.

Monocot Meadow: This area will highlight the use of easy-care ornamental grasses that need far less water and fertilizer than turf and can be very striking in any landscape. Monocot Meadow has been in development for the past year and is very close to being planted. Hopefully this meadow will be completed by January 2011.

Rare and Unusual Fruiting Plants: Although it has a good variety of citrus, apple, pear and stone fruit trees, our garden is now adding "non-traditional" fruiting plants with help from the San Diego Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers. Our collection now has more than 20 varieties of bananas, 12 types of pomegranates, a nice selection of dragon fruits and seven blueberry varieties suited to San Diego climates.

Formal Garden: Our formal garden has symmetrical paths, a small fountain, boxwood hedges and a rose garden. We also hope to display many varieties of garden iris here.

Ground Cover Display Plots: We currently grow 23 types of ground cover suitable for slopes, lawn substitution and in challenging areas such as entryways and between stepping-stones.

Plant Variety: The botanic garden has more than 400 different trees, shrubs and perennials. Since we became an official botanic garden about 3 years ago, we have focused on providing plant signage and have added about 200 signs. We will continue until all plants are labeled.

How does this garden compare/contrast with the San Diego Botanic Garden and the Water Conservation Garden?

The South Bay Botanic Garden is meant to be a place where homeowners and plant lovers can visit to get garden ideas, see plants grown in their natural forms and become inspired to try different plant palettes. Being a college botanic garden, education is our top priority and we hope that visitors come away with an appreciation for the great variety and uses of plants. We will never have the amount of land that the San Diego Botanic Garden has, so our collections and themes will have to be more limited. And, since we hope to provide many different garden ideas, we will not have the concentration of water-saving principles that are so well display at the Water Conservation Garden. Of course, the differences in these botanic gardens are why all of us who love plants also love to visit different botanic gardens.

Are there any future plant collections planned?

Our current California Native Garden is being redesigned to group California native plants as they grow naturally. The design will include meandering garden paths, restful benches for reflection and viewing and complete plant signage. Designed by current Landscape and Nursery Technology student Eliana Uretsky and local landscape designer Clayton Tschudy of Tschudy Ecological Designs, the garden will begin construction this month.

How have South Bay's diverse communities embraced this new resource?

It has been a slow process. Getting the word out about the garden has been difficult and keeping a strong volunteer and membership group has had its ups and downs. For anyone reading this who wants to join us, we hold monthly meetings open to all the second Tuesday of every month, in room 1802 (inside the garden), from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Contact me at whomyak@swccd.edu or at 619-421-6700, ext. 5371, for information on how to join or volunteer.

How is the garden funded? How can garden lovers help it grow?

On a shoestring! Currently, garden funds come from a college trust account composed solely of funds raised by garden events. We hope in the future to become an independent entity with non-profit status. We are currently studying models that exist with other colleges and universities (such as the Arboretum at UC Davis).

Ground Cover Display Plots

Photo: Bill Homyak

What events do you have planned in the new year for the garden?

We have two main events every year. The South Bay Green Scene, best described as a garden show with vendors, garden talks, plant sales and food, is held annually in early September. In addition, we host an annual Holiday of Lights event. Local organizations are encouraged to pick a portion of our garden and decorate it with holiday lights. The public is then invited to stroll the gardens and enjoy the festive decorations. This year's event is Dec. 10 and 11 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Admission is $1. If you have an organization, church group or club that would like to participate, contact me at the information listed above.

Other garden activities are our series of Garden Walks and Talks. Every other Saturday, from April until mid-September, we bring in garden experts to cover a garden topic, starting with a talk in a classroom and then spilling out into the garden for a walk. Voluntary contributions of $1 are encouraged. Check our website, www.southbaybotanicgarden.org, in February for our next series. You are welcome to visit the garden any time during regular hours—Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is closed on all major school holidays. Parking during school semesters is regulated by the campus and you will need to purchase a $3 parking pass from the yellow parking machines located in convenient campus entrances. Directions to the garden are on our website.

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for November and December 2010

November Events

NOVEMBER 1

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
AIFD designer Noel Tribbey presents "Fall Fantasy: A Celebration of Autumn."
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

NOVEMBER 2

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: Novice Meeting 6:30 p.m., Room 104; General Meeting 7:30 p.m., Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

NOVEMBER 3

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
Connie Beck will discuss rain- and gray-water harvesting.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Crown Hills Clubhouse, 1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Guest speaker James Rose will address the group.
When: Culture Class 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Community Room at North County Fair, Escondido
More information: Sandi Lord, 760-727-7614

NOVEMBER 5

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Floral design with artist David Root.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON
The Scholarship Luncheon is a fundraiser to finance scholarships to college students majoring in horticulture and related fields.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 East Vista Way, Vista
Cost: $20
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

NOVEMBER 6

KATE SESSIONS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
A celebration of the "Mother of Balboa Park" featuring house tours, garden tours, tree tours, geraniums to buy, birthday cake, lemonade and on-site gourmet food trucks. Sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association, Friends of Balboa Park and Save Our Heritage Organization.
When: 11:00 – 2:00
Where: Marston House, 3525 Seventh Ave., San Diego
More information: *www.sdfloral.org*

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens, Encinitas More information: 858-566-0503, http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm

NOVEMBER 9

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Head designer and buyer for Canterbury Gardens Cindy Valdez will discuss holiday decorating.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
Start the holidays off right at this cuttings workshop.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540; *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Community Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

NOVEMBER 10

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
SDFA instructor Barbara Clark will discuss holiday decorating when you don't have the time to decorate.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Nan Sterman presents "Incredible Edible, Water Wise and Beautiful."
When: Social 9:00 a.m.; Business Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main St., Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Olga Tuchsher will teach how to be the consummate hostess with her "Dining by Design" program.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 17025 Avenida de Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe
More information: *www.rsfgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

NOVEMBER 11

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
This month's meeting will feature a panel presentation on "Improving your Soil."
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

NOVEMBER 13

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Discover the beauty of "The Bromeliads of Puerto Rico" with Ed Hamilton.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Cycads, palms, tillandsias and agaves of Panama will be discussed by Jeremy Spath of the San Diego Botanic Garden.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: http://*sdcss.net*

NOVEMBER 14

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
Come to hear David Nguy address the group.
When: 10:30 a.m.; classes begin at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

NOVEMBER 15

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Paula Taylor presents "How to Re-landscape Your Garden With Roses."
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

NOVEMBER 16

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, *www.cnpssd.org*

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
This month's program is "How to Control Tree Size Without Topping or Heading."
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Prepare for the holidays with Carville Veech.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Anne Caprioglio, 858-454-6227

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

NOVEMBER 17

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
A demonstration of the Ohara school of Japanese flower arrangement by Grand Master Akiko Bourland.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
SDCS president Dean Turney describes what it takes to win at camillia shows.
When: Social 7:00 p.m.; General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Dean Turney 760-942-1919

NOVEMBER 18

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
Master Gardener Mo Price discusseds water-wise Australian plants.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: R. B. Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Debra Lee Baldwin presents a program about succulents.
When: Social 9:00 a.m.; Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
This floral design program features Ron Morgan's "In the Company of Flowers."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117; *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

NOVEMBER 20

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Bldg. (3400)
More information: *www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta*

NOVEMBER 22

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

NOVEMBER 23

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location
More information: 619-583-8008

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

NOVEMBER 24

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Social 9:30 a.m.; Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

NOVEMBER 27

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553; http://affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html

NOVEMBER 30

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents discusses growing succulents in containers.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

December Events

DECEMBER 1

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
A members only Christmas party. Bring a dish and share in the fun!
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Crown Hills Clubhouse, 1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

DECEMBER 3

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join us for our annual potluck and auction fundraiser.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

■ TWO DAYS

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
December Nights in Balboa Park
When: Friday 5:00–10:00 p.m., Saturday Noon–10:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfloral.org* and *www.balboapark.org/decembernights*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Richard Wright of Edible Eden discusses landscaping with edibles and herbs.
When: 12 Noon
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

DECEMBER 4

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
Annual holiday potluck and gift exchange.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens, Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503; *http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm*

DECEMBER 5

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-689-0957

DECEMBER 6

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
"Flower Power": Three NGC-affiliated floral designers present their signature designs and create a piece given surprise materials.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

DECEMBER 7

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: Novice Meeting 6:30 p.m., Room 104; General Meeting 7:30 p.m., Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

DECEMBER 8

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The annual holiday tea and bazaar is open to the public.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY
When: 11:00 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

DECEMBER 9

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Celebrate the season at our Christmas social.
When: Social 9:00 a.m.; Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
This members-only meeting will feature Cathleen McCandless on "Feng Shui for the Garden."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

DECEMBER 11

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

DECEMBER 12

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
Speaker is SDBC president Steve Valentine.
When: 10:30 a.m.; classes begin at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

DECEMBER 13

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

DECEMBER 14

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Learn about Christmas floral arrangements with Leslie Sill.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Community Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

DECEMBER 15

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
A demonstration of holiday arrangements by teachers of the various forms of Japanese floral design.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

DECEMBER 16

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

DECEMBER 17

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER
Holiday potluck dinner and gift exchange.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

DECEMBER 18

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Bldg. (3400)
More information: *www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta*

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553, http://affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html

DECEMBER 21

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033; *www.cnpssd.org*

DECEMBER 22

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Social 9:30 a.m.; Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; http://*sdgc.klmmicro.com*

DECEMBER 27

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

DECEMBER 28

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location
More information: 619-583-8008

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

DECEMBER 31

HAVE A HAPPY AND JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*, 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden *formerly known as The Quail Botanical Gardens.*
No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.
When: 9 a.m.–11 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/teclte.shtml*, 858-581-9959

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D. .
When: 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

GENERAL MEETINGS 2010

February 17
April 21
June 15
September 29

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Sandra Dysart

Vice President (Programs)
Christie Wright

Vice President (Membership)
Lucy Kramer

Treasurer
Nancy Carol Carter

Recording Secretary
Gail DeFalco

Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Clark

Historian
Diane Maher

Parliamentarian
Barbara Clark

DIRECTORS

Term 2009-2011
Cheryl Gaidmore
Suzanne Michele
Dian Walkinshaw

Term 2010-2012
Kay Harry
Diane Maher
Suzanne Sorger

Term 2010-2013
Joan Blankenship
Meredith French
Bonnie Gebhardt

Arrangers Guild Liaison
Sharon Lowry

AFFILIATES

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin
President: Lisa Lomax
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532
619-445-8352
www.chirp.org

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
President: Leslie Crawford
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92178-0188
619-435-8079
www.coronadofloralassoc.org

FRIENDS OF BALBOA PARK
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-2282
www.friendsofbalboapark.org

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
P. O. Box 742
Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
Tour reservations: 949-497-0716
Information: 949-244-2010
www.hortensemillergarden.org

FRIENDS OF THE MARSTON HOUSE
c/o SOHO
2476 San Diego Ave.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-9327
www.marstonhouse.org
Friends@marstonhouse.org

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Kanzawa
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-232-2721
www.niwa.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Director: Jane McKee
1276 Palomares Ct.
Fallbrook, CA 92078-1620
760-728-6373
palomardirector@aol.com
http://palomardistrict.tripod.com

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2821
949-459-6094

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc.
President/CEO: Julian Duval
P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
www.SDBGarden.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
President: Ed Hamilton
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-234-8901
www.sdbgf.org

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Department
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
www.sandiegozoo.org

SEAWORLD OF CALIFORNIA
500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109-7904
619-222-6363
www.seaworld.com/sandiego

SERRA MESA BRANCH LIBRARY
9005 Aero Drive
San Diego, CA 92123-2312
858-573-1396

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Sandi Lord
P. O. Box 876
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
760-727-7614

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Executive Director: Marty Eberhardt
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317
619-660-0614
info@thegarden.org
www.thegarden.org

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES

CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711
858-459-0316

FLOWERS OF POINT LOMA
2170 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107-2423
619-223-5475

GRANGETTO'S FARM AND GARDEN SUPPLY
P. O. Box 463095
Escondido, CA 92046-3095
760-745-4671
www.grangettos.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Contact: Darren Simon
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
858-522-6600
www.sdcwa.org

SMALL SPACE CREATIONS
6333 College Grove Way
San Diego, CA 92115-7217
619-981-3273
http://smallspacecreations.com/

JIM STELLUTI CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116-2722
619-298-7641

GARDEN CLUBS

BERNARDO GARDENERS
President: Liliane Dickinson
15165 Susita Street
San Diego, CA 92129-1232
858-672-2454
www.bernardogardeners.org

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Lynne Batchelor
1165 Kosner Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-3803
619-858-451-6764

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
President: Gretchen Ashton
Publicity: Mary Hassing
P. O. Box 626
Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-494-7774
www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Marilyn Saleny
P. O. Box 57
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
619-421-6072

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
President: Virginia Osgood
234 H Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
619-435-1769
www.crowngardenclub.org

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
President: Carol Curcio
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082
760-751-2226
www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Cecilia Taylor & Joy McCormack
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
760-451-3087
www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
President: Anne Caprioglio
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-454-6227
acaprioglio@san.rr.com

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
President: Louise Ortega
158 Carey Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-598-6571
www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
President: Beverly Fritschner
325 W Washington, #166
San Diego, CA 92103-5502
619-923-3624
www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
President: Kathy Hargrove
3812 Haines Street
San Diego, CA 92109
858-483-2693
www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Sharon Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129
858-672-2593
http://powayvalleygardenclub.org/

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Co-presidents: Teri Schmidt and Carol Wilson
P. O. Box 1412
Ramona, CA 92065
Teri: 760-789-8774, Carol: 760-788-9876
www.ramonagardenclub.com

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
President: Helen Dizio
Contact: Connie Beck
1077 Vista Madera
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-749-4059

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
President: Helen Dizio
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483
858-756-1554
www.rsfgardenclub.org

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
President: Genny Deutsch
6796 Summit Ridge Way
San Diego, CA 92120
619-583-8008
Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
President: Susi Torre-Bueno
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
760-295-7089
www.sdhortsoc.org

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
President: Geri Thiroway
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-755-3284
sdgc.klmmicro.com

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Sally Kirby and Starr Rausch
P. O. Box 1526
Temecula, CA 92593-1526
951-677-4895
www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
President: Nan Kaufman
4638 Alhambra St.
San Diego, CA 92107-4021
619-225-8349
www.villagegardenclubofla jolla.com

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Lynn Paine
P. O. Box 44
Vista, CA 92085-0044
760-724-1127
www.vistagardenclub.org

IKEBANA SCHOOLS

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
President: Deborah Warriner
633 Alameda Blvd.
Coronado, CA 92110
619-435-9712

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
President: Chris A. Bugarin
P. O. Box 211163
Chula Vista, CA 91921-1163
619-869-4622
chrisb1968@cox.net
ikebanasandiego.org

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
President: Sadako Oehler
2822 Walker Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-3056
858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 195
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-672-7850

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski
10830 Montego Dr.
San Diego, CA 92124-1421
858-571-6137

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey
2829 Flax Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-2160
619-429-6198

PLANT SOCIETIES

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
President: Patty Regan
2000 S. Melrose Dr., #119
Vista, CA 92081
760-295-0484

BEGONIA

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
President: Michael Ludwig
6040 Upland St.
San Diego, CA 92114-1933
619-262-7535

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
President: Brenda Storey
9976 Dauntless St.
San Diego, CA 92126-5514
858-689-0957

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
President: Steve Valentine
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego, CA 92164-0037
619-699-8776
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
President: Andy Siekkinen
P. O. Box 232475
San Diego, CA 92193

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
President: Robert Kopfstein
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego, CA 92138-3996
760-726-8300
http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
President: Vicki Broughton
P. O. Box 840
Escondido, CA 92033
760-741-7553
vmbrought@cox.net

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
President: Chris Miller
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego, CA 92163-3181
619-258-9810
sdcss.net

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-942-1919

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
President: David J. Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
858-672-2593
djsj21643@aol.com

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
President: Gary Colby
11375 Alberni Court
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-0503
ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
President: Sandra Chapin
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
858-485-5414
www.sandiegoepi.com

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
President: Kathie Russell
4780 Glen Street
La Mesa, CA 91941-5466
619-464-2609
www.sdfern.com

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER
Chair: Tom Del Hotal
2602 69th Street
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
619-454-2628
www.crfgsandiego.org

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
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3722 Tanner Lane
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858-472-0540
www.sdgeranium.org

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Co-Presidents: Judy Dunning & Cindy Christ
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El Cajon, CA 92021-4082
619-579-0222
www.thesandiegoherbclub.com

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
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San Diego, CA 92112-1390
858-268-3789
www.cnpssd.org

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1415 Sapphire Dr.
Carlsbad, CA 92011
760-604-4687
www.palomarorchid.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
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San Diego, CA 92176-1020
619-294-5925
www.sdorchids.com

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760-731-6188
www.socalplumeriasociety.com

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EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
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3429 Quimby St.,
San Diego, CA 92106
619-224-6346
www.eastcountyrosesociety.com

HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO
Coordinators:
Jack and Mary Ann Olson
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SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
President: Robert Martin, Jr.
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760-317-5894
www.sdrosesociety.org

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760-436-3704
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Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762
Email: *membership@sdfloral.org*
Sept./Oct. 2010 issue: July 10, 2010 Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-card sized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (TIFF, JPEG or PDF files preferred).

In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in September and October. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit *www.sdfarmbureau.org*.)

November: Apples, Asian pears, avocados, basil, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, cucumbers, grapes, guavas, herbs, kiwi, lemons, lettuce, limes, macadamia nuts, melons, navel oranges, peppers, persimmons, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tangerines, tomatoes and various cut flowers.

December: Apples, basil, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, guavas, herbs, kiwi, lemons, lettuce, limes, macadamia nuts, navel oranges, peppers, persimmons, potatoes, radishes, spinach, winter squash, tangelos, tangerines, tomatoes and various cut flowers.

Guavas

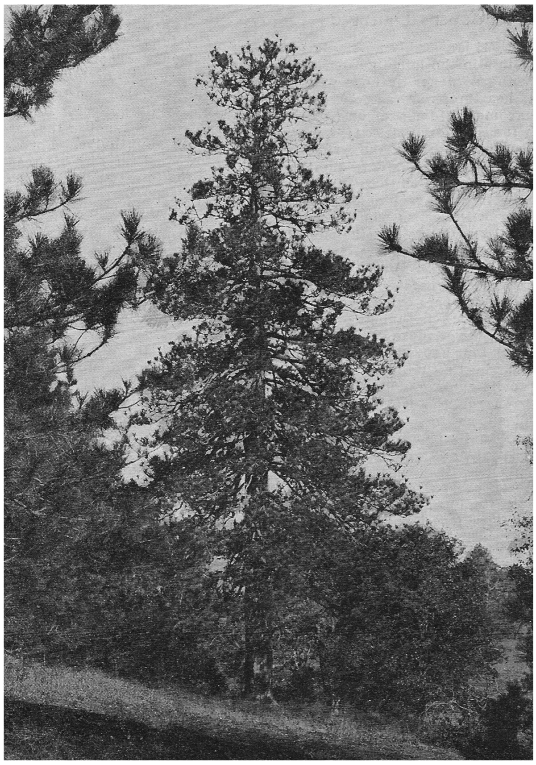
Photo: Rachel Cobb

Contact Us!

Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *sdfloral@gmail.com* or Denise Thompson at *EarthD@san.rr.com* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Jan./Feb. 2011 issue is November 5, 2010; the deadline for the Mar./Apr. 2011 issue is January 5, 2011.

If the idea of living Christmas trees seems relatively new, read on. Ninety years ago, California Garden *encouraged the use of a "growing tree" rather than a harvested one. While published before the development of the commercial Christmas tree farm, this editorial is an example of the magazine's advocacy for forest conservation. –Nancy Carol Carter*

December 1919
Christmas Trees

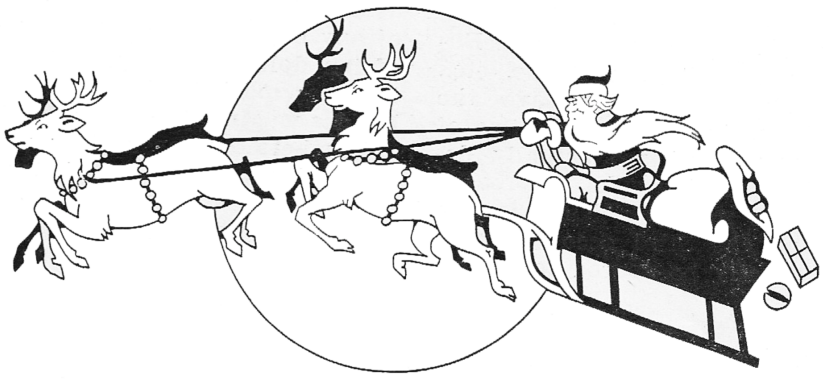


The *Christian Science Monitor* is authority for the statement that over 5,000,000 trees will be cut from the Vermont Hills alone for Christmas tree purposes, and at a very liberal estimate . . . this number will not be replaced [because the United States Department of Agriculture plants only about] 1,500,000 new trees a year.

This sort of thing is going on in all states where there is second growth timber of a proper size for cutting for this purpose and when it is considered that probably only 25 percent of the trees cut are actually used, the waste of these valuable trees seems even more appalling. Furthermore, apart from their value as timber, there is the part which they play in conserving water in irrigated portions of the United States, and in preventing soil erosion on the steep hill sides. Sooner or later we will have to give up the practice of using cut trees for Christmas, for the simple reason that there will not be any, and we might just as well start now as anytime.

Every year at Christmas time a plea goes forth not to cut trees from our hillsides for Christmas trees for the kiddies. If the parents could realize how much more pleasure and satisfaction is to be derived from the use of growing trees for this purpose instead of buying cut trees, this annual appeal would be unnecessary. It is really possible in this connection to have your cake and eat it too, and the difference in cost is very slight.

The accompanying illustration [of tall pine trees near Warner's Springs] shows what we can make possible to future generations by conserving our small pines and cedars and using growing trees instead.



Gardening is like painting,
our yards are our canvas.
Nature is our teacher
and inspiration.
We use our creativity
and instinct
to achieve
landscape art.

The Materials are
Rocks and Soil
Wildflowers, Weeds
Leaves and Trees

Our Patrons are
Lizards, Butterflies,
Hummingbirds, the
Children of Today,
and of the Future.

Garden Design
and Garden Maintenance
John Noble
Coastal Sage Gardening
call for a free consultation
619 223 5229
coastalsage.com

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San Diego, CA 92101-1684

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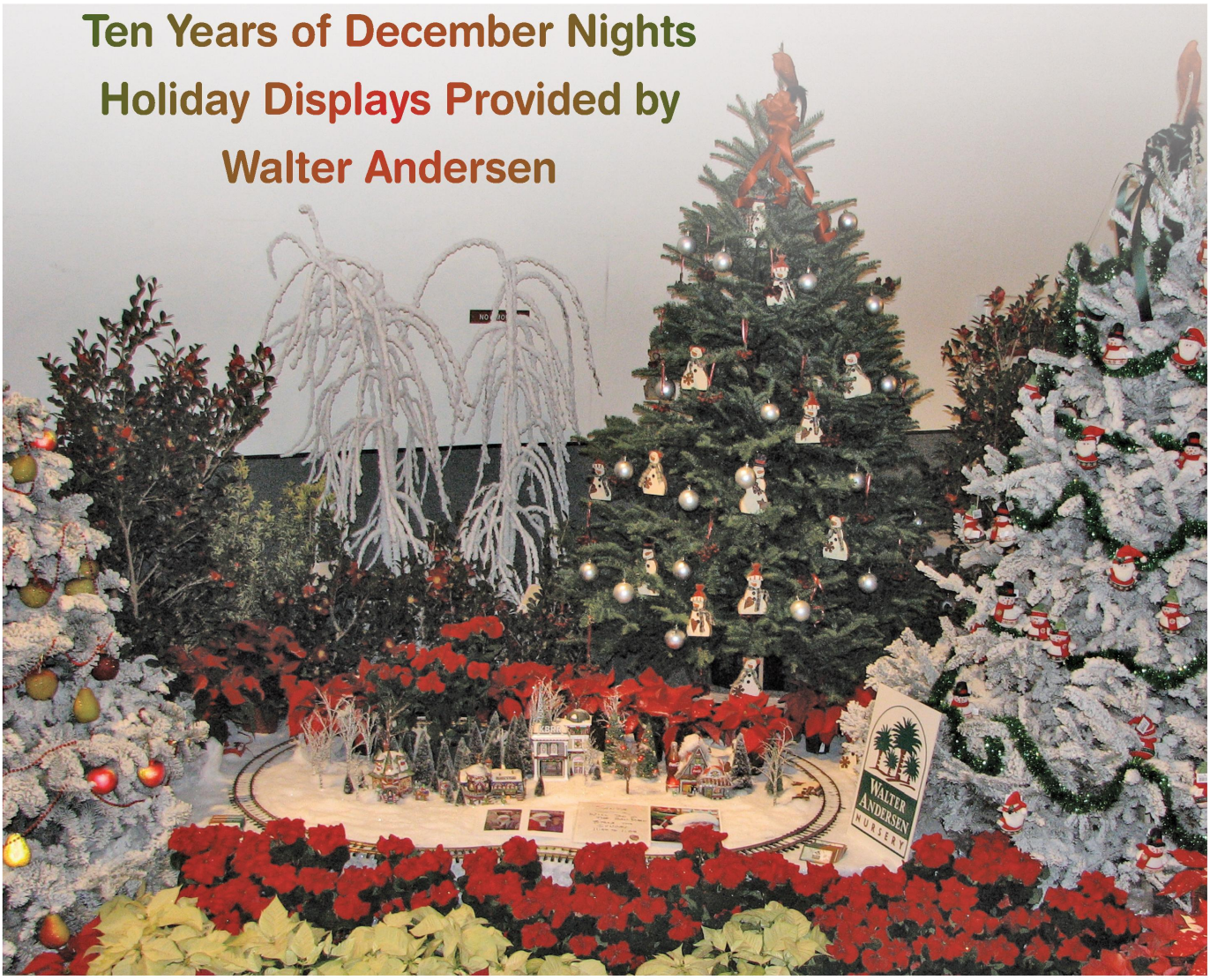
San Diego Floral Association Sends Grateful Thanks for Ten Years of December Nights Holiday Displays Provided by Walter Andersen